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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN EASTERN IOWA

Before the Black Hawk Purchase Treaty was signed in 1832 the area now included in the State of Iowa was Indian land, except for a small triangle in the southeastern corner known as the "Half-Breed Tract". During the centuries of Indian occupancy the forests had been little used. In an economy based on hunting, with gardening as a minor activity, the Indians used the timber which grew along the streams only for building their small, temporary dwellings and for fuel to heat their homes and cook their simple food. They had also learned to tap the maple trees to secure sugar. There was no wholesale cutting of timber. Occasional prairie fires destroyed the small trees, but there was, on the whole, not much destruction of timber.

The white settlers, in contrast to the Indians, had an economy which required the extensive use of wood and wood products. For over two hundred years pioneers had been developing homes in the eastern forests. The axe, log cabin, and rail fence were symbols of the pioneer. When the settlers reached the open prairies they were confronted with a different set of conditions. Only by crossing many miles of treeless plains and mountains to the wooded areas of the Pacific Coast could these forest dwellers again have the environment to which they had been accustomed.¹

Iowaland was a country of prairies, with wooded areas along the streams, and the settlers who came from forested regions doubted the fertility of the prairies, for in the East

¹ Walter P. Webb's *The Great Plains*, p. 149, quoted in Glenn T. Trewartha's "Climate and Settlement of the Subhumid Lands" in the *Yearbook of Agriculture* (U. S. Department of Agriculture), 1941, p. 172; James Hall's *Notes on the Western States*, p. 158, also cited in the *Yearbook of Agriculture*, 1941, p. 173.

land without trees was usually undesirable. In Kentucky, for example, large unforested areas were known as "barrens". And so the early pioneers chose timberlands for their first homes. Here they found shelter from the storms, logs for their cabins, rails for fences, and fuel for their fireplaces.² Here they felt more at home, more protected, than on the open prairies. In the words of one pioneer, the forest dwellers "would snuggle up to them". Another early resident of the Iowa area described the settlements beyond the timber in this way:

Skirting the timber land . . . might be seen a continuous series of incipient farms, each adorned with a settler's cabin. Occasionally some one more adventurous than the rest had launched boldly out from the shore . . . into the open ocean prairie, and had fixed his home where the storms of summer and the wintry winds might approach him on all sides, and in defiance, also, of the distance whence the materials for fire and shelter and fences were to be procured.³

Settlers soon found that the unforested, gently-sloping hillsides and the level prairies were as fertile as the timbered areas and could be transformed into farms much more easily. The prairie sod was tough, but it could be turned over with a breaking plow drawn by oxen. There was no such easy way to dispose of the timber. Soon the prairies were dotted with claims.

By 1840, the fringe of population in the southeast quarter of Iowa was thickest along the Des Moines River where it reached a width of three regulation counties back from the Mississippi. The Skunk and Maquoketa rivers, though small, drained fertile and attractive districts. Between

² Floyd B. Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa* (*Iowa Studies in Business*, No. 13, Bureau of Business Research, State University of Iowa), p. 12.

³ Charles Mason, Iowa's first Chief Justice, gave this description in 1858, referring to conditions in Iowa in 1837.—Irving B. Richman's *Ioway to Iowa*, pp. 177, 178.

these — and within the same area of habitation — were the Iowa and its larger affluent, the Red Cedar. North of 42° latitude, the streams were smaller and the fringes of occupation along the Wapsipinicon, the Turkey, and the Iowa were a single county wide, even though beyond this wooded strip were large bodies of the now desirable, but then despised prairie.

This stream-following settlement pattern continued until about 1850. The fringe of settlement gradually widened; population became more dense and extended westward, with long fingerlike projections up the streams which found their outlet in the Missouri River. This pattern was extended until all sections had some population. As areas became settled, counties were formed, and governments established. By 1860, this process had been largely completed.⁴

All these early settlers needed wood products of various kinds but they found that these were not available to them except in the crude forms they could fashion with the tools they brought with them. The first task of the pioneer after staking his claim was to provide some form of shelter. The three-faced camps were perhaps the most primitive of the dwellings made of timber. These were formed of three walls made of rough logs with small straight poles placed over the walls as rafters. Over these, hand-hewn clapboards were laid to make a roof. This type of shelter was used only for rest camps or until a more permanent type of cabin could be constructed and was seldom used in Iowa.

The cabin proper required much work and usually additional help. Logs were cut into the desired dimensions of the cabin and dragged to the site selected for the cabin usually with the aid of horses, or oxen. Plans for a cabin called for a single room, perhaps twelve by twelve, or sixteen by eighteen feet. Rarely it was as large as eighteen by

⁴ George F. Parker's *Iowa Pioneer Foundations*, Vol. I, pp. 117, 118.

twenty feet. Notches were cut in the logs to make them fit together. When the cabin walls reached seven or eight feet, two gables were forced by shortening the logs on the ends of the building. A roof was built on the gables by laying very straight small logs or stout poles from gable to gable at regular intervals. On these, clapboards, much like the modern shingles but larger and thicker, were fastened. Weight poles were laid over the clapboards and secured by long wooden pegs driven into auger holes. These kept the clapboards from sliding to the lower edge of the roof. The cracks between the logs were filled with mud and then daubed over on both sides with plaster. Floors might be of dirt but more often were of the puncheon type, made of logs split in half with the flat side up.⁵

Some families brought furniture with them, but this, owing to the distance usually traveled, was not common. The furniture of most cabins varied with the ingenuity of the occupants. Tables, benches, and stools were made of split logs with peg legs. Beds were made of a log frame which was fastened in the wall of the cabin.

After the pioneer had "raised" his log cabin, he continued to labor in the strips of timber, making rails to fence his cultivated plots to keep out the deer or the domestic animals that ran at large. A good pioneer fence was one that was "hog tight, horse high, and bull strong". Thousands of rail fences were built in Iowa. When these became weathered and were covered with vines, they made picturesque features of the landscape as they zigzagged up hill and down. Barbed wire to replace them did not appear until 1858. One author, in speaking of the needs of the settlers on the prairies, said that "Barbed wire and windmills made the settlement of the West possible".⁶

⁵ Richman's *Ioway to Iowa*, p. 178; Mildred J. Sharp's "Early Cabins in Iowa" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. II, pp. 16-29.

⁶ Cyrenus Cole's *Iowa Through the Years*, pp. 217, 218, 357; Webb's *The*

The construction equipment of early settlers who came to Iowa included the axe, broadaxe, froe or frow, auger, and plane. Cutting boards with such tools required much hard work. The settlers early started the making of planks by "whipsawing". In preparation for this work a platform was erected on a hillside and a pit dug beneath it. A log was then rolled onto the wooden frame and one man stood on the platform, the other in the pit. The two pulled a cross-cut saw which ripped planks off the log. This cut better boards but it, too, was a slow process.⁷

These wood-using people brought to this land knowledge of several trades. There were coopers and cabinet-makers, who sought wood for the products they could construct for the needs of the local people as well as for the outside market. The cabinet-maker did high quality hand work, making cupboards, bedsteads, and other furniture. The cooper, while a skilled woodworker, usually found little demand for barrels in the early pioneer settlements so he often became a farmer. There were some who worked on the farms in summer and in the woods in winter, where they cut logs for fuel, repair materials, and fencing. Some also took logs to mills where they had them made into lumber which they then sold for cash.⁸

In the early days of farming in the Iowa area, agricultural tools were few and crude. The early plows had wooden mold-boards which needed to be scoured constantly to be of use. The steel plow, first developed near Dixon, Illinois, from a discarded circular saw blade, came like a "gift from

Great Plains, p. 280, quoted in Trewartha's "Climate and Settlement of Sub-humid Lands" in the *Yearbook of Agriculture* (U. S. Department of Agriculture), 1941, p. 175.

⁷ George C. Duffield's "Frontier Mills" in *The Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 427, 428. The broadaxe was used in hewing the logs after they were cut. A froe or frow was a cutting tool with a handle at right angles. It was used in slicing shingles from sections of a log.

⁸ Parker's *Iowa Pioneer Foundations*, Vol. I, pp. 228, 229.

God". It made John Deere's name a household word and also made him rich. Mowing and reaping machines were invented the year the Black Hawk Purchase was opened (1833) but they did not come into general use in Iowa until after the Civil War because people could not afford them. Scythes and cradles in the meantime remained the principal harvesting tools.⁹

Although the early settler found his temporary housing, his crude tools, and his facilities of travel not much to his liking, he felt that he had found a desirable home and settlement developed rapidly. In June, 1832, there were probably not more than fifty white people living within the limits of the future State of Iowa. The first census of the Iowa District, in August, 1836, showed the population to be 10,531. In 1838, it had increased to 23,242.¹⁰ This influx of people from the eastern and southern parts of the country as well as from Canada and England brought a great demand for lumber products. There was the desire, especially on the part of the women folks, for a bit of elegance beyond the first immediate need of shelter, or at least for some of the comforts, and conveniences of their former homes. These desires helped to bring about the establishment of mills and woodworking plants which were soon to become important parts of the Iowa economy.

This study of the lumbering and associated industries in Iowa is an attempt to describe and explain the changes, both through time and in location, which have characterized these enterprises since their beginnings up to the present. These changes, operating together, produced variations within the industry in character, location, and magnitude.

⁹ Cole's *Iowa Through the Years*, p. 218.

¹⁰ F. I. Herriott's "Whence Came the Pioneers of Iowa?" in *The Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VII, pp. 454, 456, 460, 464; *Iowa Historical and Comparative Census, 1836-1880*, p. 168; Marie Haefner's "The Census of 1838" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XIX, p. 185.

Although the changes were and still are going on continuously, it has been convenient to recognize three general periods, each of which had certain qualities of nature and distribution.

The first of these which may be called the pioneer period started in 1833 and continued until 1860. Characteristic of this interval of time were many small mills scattered along the streams of the State. These cut local timber which was manufactured near the sawmills for the purpose of supplying the local demand for wood products. In addition to this pattern, there was, especially in the latter part of the period, a concentration of larger mills in several Mississippi River towns which used logs received by rafting.

The middle period, 1860-1910, was marked by large units of industry in eastern Iowa towns and a peak lumber production for the State. This industry was based almost entirely upon the rafting of logs from the northern pineries. After 1889, there was a gradual decrease in the amount of logs available which resulted in the end of rafting and the closing of the sawmills operating on rafted supplies shortly after the end of the first decade of the twentieth century.

In the third or present period, some wood-using industries, started in the middle period, continued to operate in the river towns; others were developed in the larger cities of the State on lumber delivered by rail. In some of the smaller towns there have been wood manufacturing shops since the pioneer and middle periods. These remained as producing units in the third period and some others were added. Many small portable mills cutting local timber were started early in the present period. Some of these remain.

PIONEER PERIOD OF LUMBERING

The early people who came to Iowa knew that trees grew primarily along streams, but they did not know how large a

portion of the area then had such cover. A Federal government publication is authority for the statement that when the white man came to the area one-fifth of it was forested. In a recent State publication the amount of the original timberland is given as 5,000,000 acres or about one-seventh of the State's area. One early writer (1857) said that "according to the most reliable estimates, *at least one-tenth part of the State of Iowa is timber land*".¹¹

From data obtained by the U. S. Land Office surveys of 1832-1859, one Iowa writer concluded that the "most accurate estimate appears to be one offered in a memorandum found in the files of the Iowa Forest and Wasteland Survey which places the original forested area of the State at a figure of 6,680,926 acres, or 18.77 per cent of the land area. This estimate was determined by planimetering a map of Iowa based on the original land survey."¹²

Just which of these estimates is most nearly correct can never be determined. They do indicate, however, that the amount of timber in Iowa was large enough to serve the needs of the early settlers. The uneven distribution of the forest was, however, the real problem. In some places the prairies were from twenty to forty miles wide, and timber was inconveniently distant for those who settled in such areas.¹³

The original woodlands were most abundant in the eastern and southeastern sections, and thinnest in the north central and northwestern districts. In several northwestern tracts there were no woods whatsoever except a narrow

¹¹ Hugh P. Baker's *Native and Planted Timber of Iowa* (Forest Service Circular, No. 154, U. S. Department of Agriculture), p. 8; Jacob L. Crane, Jr., and George W. Olcott's *Report on the Iowa Twenty-five Year Conservation Plan*, p. 72; Nathan Howe Parker's *The Iowa Handbook, for 1857*, p. 27.

¹² George B. Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 52, 53.

¹³ Nathan Howe Parker's *Iowa as It Is in 1857*, p. 36.

fringe around lakes and in river valleys. In those areas of Iowa having forests, the northern and eastern slopes were most commonly wooded, while the southern and western ones were comparatively treeless. Hot and dry south and southwest winds seem to have checked the growth of trees on these two exposures. In flatter areas, these winds and prairie fires may have been responsible in part for the general lack of trees.

The forests that were present when white men came into Iowa contained much the same species as occur among those that remain. The location of the various species was, then as now, determined by elevation, latitude, and such factors as moisture, soil, slope, and drainage. Along river bottoms, where the growth of timber was most abundant, the commonest trees were walnut, elm, cottonwood, river birch, hackberry, willow, swamp oak, ash, linden, locust, sycamore, and soft maple. The upland timber consisted mainly of many varieties of oak, hickory, hard maple, elm, wild fruit trees, juniper, and butternut. Upland and lowland trees intermingled to some extent. There were also some less common varieties. In the northeastern counties, for example, there were scattered stands of native white pine, low-growing yew, and juniper.¹⁴ On the whole, however, Iowa timber consisted largely of broadleaf trees.

Early travelers in Iowa have given clear but probably somewhat exaggerated statements about the timber of their day. One writer, in 1857, spoke of the valley of the Des Moines River as having abundant supplies of walnut and other valuable timber. Hickory and walnut trees, he stated, occurred in great numbers along the nearby Iowa, Skunk, and Cedar rivers. Of the timber along the Mississippi he wrote as follows: "I have seen on the banks of the Mississippi as fine a growth of oak as could be desired; trees three

¹⁴ Crane and Olcott's *Report on the Iowa Twenty-five Year Conservation Plan*, p. 72.

and four feet in diameter, standing in a body, miles in length, and three miles in width.”¹⁵

Despite glowing statements of people who saw the forests before much cutting had occurred, a considerable portion of the original timber of Iowa is known to have been inferior in quality. The amount of Iowa timber of the size and type found in the northern lake States was comparatively small. This was especially true of many of the stands away from streams which were suitable only for a poor grade of posts and fuel. The local hardwood timbers were furthermore difficult to cut and to use in building. The softer pine woods from the northern States were therefore welcomed by Iowa farmers and carpenters.¹⁶

The first sawmills in Iowa were small, crude, and inefficient. Several sawmills were started in the first few years of settlement. There were no regulations regarding the building of dams, the construction of mills, or the installation of machinery at that time. In January, 1839, several people were given permission to proceed with such developments on the Skunk, Des Moines, and other rivers provided they did not interfere with the right of any individual. If dams were built across navigable streams, a lock at least 130 feet long and 35 feet wide must be installed. Since stream navigation was not of major importance, the necessity of complying with laws regarding the building of locks was not of frequent occurrence or of much concern to the miller. His greatest problem was to find a mill site where the stream flow was adequate to assure sufficient power for year round operation of his grist mill or sawmill.¹⁷

¹⁵ Parker's *The Iowa Handbook, for 1857*, p. 27.

¹⁶ Baker's *Native and Planted Timber of Iowa*, p. 9. "Hardwood", as used in lumbering, includes timber from broad-leaved trees; softwood refers to lumber from coniferous trees.

¹⁷ Jacob A. Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 42, 45, 46; *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1838-1839*, pp. 337-343.

The early mills of Iowa were primarily those using water power. There were a few steam mills in operation very early in the history of the Territory such as the one erected at Dubuque in 1837. The large mills which were soon to appear along the river were in the main steam-powered, as were the smaller ones of western and northwestern Iowa, but the dominant type in other sections was the water mill.¹⁸

Sawmills¹⁹ were a pioneer necessity as were mills for grinding grain. Since both were needed in every community, many started as combination saw and grist mills. After the local timber was cut, most of those which had their beginning as sawmills, fell into decay or were converted into grist mills. A large number of mills within the State continued to operate dually for many years. As the available timber became less, more and more emphasis was placed on grain grinding. To these early mills farmers brought logs which were sawed for a toll.

The first sawmill in what is now Iowa was built on the Yellow River some four years before white settlement was permitted. It was constructed to cut local timber and that brought from the Menominee River of Wisconsin for the construction of the second Fort Crawford located near Prairie du Chien. Since some of the lumber used for the fort was cut in 1831 when Jefferson Davis was in command the structure became known as the "Jeff Davis" mill.²⁰

¹⁸ For a description of early Iowa mills and mill dams see Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 41-76; Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 59, 60.

¹⁹ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 60, 61; Duffield's "Frontier Mills" in *The Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, p. 430; Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 72, 73; George W. Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, pp. 650-656.

²⁰ Jacob A. Swisher's "The Old Rustie Mill" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 298, 299; Ellison Orr's *Hunting an Old Dam Site* (published by the author, 1930); M. M. Quaipe's "The Northwestern Career of Jefferson Davis" in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Vol. XVI, p. 13.

Other mills were soon built. The five mentioned below were probably the earliest ones, or at least among the earliest. J. B. Quigley, R. H. Hetfield, D. Beasley, and Wm. Grant located at Millville, Clayton County, on the Turkey River in 1833 and soon erected a log cabin and sawmill. In Dubuque County, C. Sage and B. Bushee that same year or the next erected a sawmill at a point on the Little Maquoketa River, called Sageville, just north of Dubuque. Since this structure, like many other early mills, was crude and temporary in nature, it was replaced as early as 1852 by a stone mill. This building, although no longer in use as a mill, remains as a landmark today.²¹

In Scott County, the first sawmill was the one built by Captain Benjamin Clark on Duck Creek about three miles south of Davenport, possibly as early as 1834, but not later than 1836. This was a small upright mill and one which served settlers for many years. In Des Moines County, Levi Moffatt built a saw and grist mill along the Skunk River in 1834 or 1835. This, too, was a primitive affair which barely served the purpose. By 1840, several others had been constructed.²²

The method of obtaining timber for the newly established mills varied with the location and time. Away from the rivers, the logs to be made into lumber were cut by the persons who owned the land on which they grew, and dragged to the mill by the use of horses or oxen. In the settlements along the Mississippi, the mills did a much larger business and after using the available material nearby, men turned to rafting logs from the pine forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Most of the early rafts seem to have been of lumber, but later much log rafting was carried on.

²¹ Realto E. Price's *History of Clayton County Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 48.

²² A. T. Andreas's *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*, p. 344; *History of Des Moines County, Iowa* (1879), p. 376; Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 254, 268.

No one knows just when the first raft appeared on the river. In the early 1830's lumber rafts from the Chippewa pineries were floated down the Mississippi to be marketed at towns along its banks. In 1833, a small raft of pine, probably the first that was sold in Iowa, furnished the material for a frame building used as a boarding house in Dubuque.²³ Other rafts of logs and lumber reached Iowa regularly in the late 1830's. On July 3, 1838, a raft containing 100,000 feet of pine plank arrived at Fort Madison from the Chippewa country.²⁴ One Iowa writer colorfully portrayed the coming of the rafts in the days of early settlement.

Before many pioneers had ventured far beyond the high bluffs bordering the Mississippi, before the wagon trains of the Mormons had left the imprint of their wheels upon the grass-grown prairies as they wended westward, while bee hunters and fur traders in frail canoes were yet pushing up the smaller streams, and while the Indian still claimed Iowa as his rightful home, the first log rafts — harbingers of a great industry — came floating down the Mississippi. Although the lumber for the first frame houses in the river towns of Iowa may have been imported from Ohio or Indiana sawmills, it is a fact that “in 1839 the pineries of Wisconsin were beginning to send their products southward by rafts.”²⁵

Newspapers of the period carried many stories about rafting. *The Davenport Sun* of May 3, 1839, reported that “several large rafts of pine lumber have already arrived at this place and Stephenson, from the pine regions of Wisconsin.” The Dubuque *Iowa News* of June 23, 1840, stated that “A large raft of sawed pine lumber arrived here from Plover portage on June 16, and fifteen more rafts from the same place are on the way down. If the water in the Chippewa and Wisconsin continue high a little longer the towns

²³ *The History of Dubuque County, Iowa* (1880), p. 353.

²⁴ William J. Petersen's *Iowa The Rivers of Her Valleys*, p. 41.

²⁵ Marie E. Meyer's “Rafting on the Mississippi” in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. VIII, pp. 121, 122.

of the upper Mississippi will be literally deluged with pine lumber.”²⁶

While rafts of lumber were coming from the forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin by 1840, in parts of the Mississippi Valley some lumber was still being received from the East. This, too, is suggested in the statements of newspapers of the period. According to the *Missouri Argus*, “The valley of the Mississippi is [yet] supplied with pine lumber from New York and Pennsylvania”. Five years later the *Bloomington Herald* commented that not more than three years had elapsed “since lumber was brought from the Alleghenies for the finish of our houses — now we see almost daily rafts of logs and excellent pine lumber floating down in search of a market”.²⁷

During the early years of rafting, log and lumber rafts were allowed to drift to their destination, which might be any town along the river between the source of the timber and St. Louis. Throughout the entire pioneer period, or until after the Civil War, rafts were floated without any motive power other than the river current. The speed of the raft was that of the current, about two and a half miles an hour. Whenever there was an upstream wind, however slight, it was necessary to tie up the raft until the wind changed, thus losing time because of this. A trip short in distance often turned out to be long in time.²⁸

The business of rafting followed a certain plan. Logs cut by lumberjacks were left at certain “booming works” where a rafter stopped for them. All logs were notched by a woodman’s axe and each lumber company had a distinguishing mark, similar to the cattle brands, so there was no confusion over ownership. By means of various lines called

²⁶ Quoted in Haworth’s *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 22.

²⁷ Quoted in Richman’s *Ioway to Iowa*, pp. 269–271.

²⁸ Walter A. Blair’s *A Raft Pilot’s Log*, pp. 27, 28.

guy-lines, A-lines, cross, fore, and aft lines, according to their location, large numbers of logs were fastened together. The raft was tightened further when necessary by means of a Spanish windlass and several varieties of sailor's hitches. Three sections of logs made a unit, called half a raft, 700 feet long and 135 feet wide. When the water was low, this was the total size. At other times a raft might be increased to 1,500 feet in length and 300 feet in width.²⁹

Many of the later forms of rafts had lumber, cross ties, sawn timbers, masts, piling, and posts piled on top of the logs. Some rafts had cabins or shacks to be used by the crew for sleeping and eating but generally they were moored at night to a tree or rock in a quiet bend of the river near some village where the men who operated the rafts were housed and fed.³⁰

When the crew lived on board, a low shed where the cook prepared meals for the crew of from twenty to thirty-five men was constructed in the center of this island of pine. The fare, limited in kind but ample in amount, was served without any thought of proper etiquette. Raftsmen knew what they wanted and got it, because the threat of being tossed overboard stimulated any cook to do his best. The crew slept in a shed at the stern of the raft, and the pilot had his cabin at the front where he had a free view of the river channel. Since any structure that would catch wind added to the work at the oars, raft workers were content with small shacks of rough boards.³¹

Sweeps were fastened at the front and rear of the raft. These were from 20 to 36 feet in length and were used as oars to steer the raft away from sandbars and other ob-

²⁹ Meyer's "Rafting on the Mississippi" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. VIII, pp. 125, 126.

³⁰ Nelson C. Brown's *Logging Transportation*, p. 252.

³¹ Charles E. Russell's *A-Rafting on the Mississippi*, p. 100; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 30.

structions.³² Planks were laid along the ends of the raft to provide footing for the men who worked the sweeps. Lengthwise down the center ran a plank for the pilot, who paced up and down, eyeing the channel, studying the wind, and warily watching the raft's movement. When the raft was to swing, he called, "Left behind, right in front," or "Right behind, and left in front", and the men leaned in unison against the long sweeps.

Raft pilots became famous men on the river. They were skillful, courageous, and uncanny in their memory of shifting bars and treacherous currents. One of the most famous of these was Stephen Hanks, cousin of Abraham Lincoln, who piloted great rafts for forty years when logs and lumber were the main item of commerce on the upper river. He knew every bend and sandbar, every towhead and cross-current from Stillwater to St. Louis.³³

Rafts of logs and lumber which these pilots brought down the river were sold in Iowa towns throughout the pioneer period, and came in increasing numbers after the railroads were constructed in the State. Large rafts of logs were landed at Burlington and other river cities where they were cut into lumber and remained in drying yards for a time; after this the lumber was shipped by railroad to various points in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.³⁴

The price of logs and lumber varied greatly throughout the pioneer period. Pine lumber from the northern Wisconsin region, used in the early settlement of Illinois and southern Wisconsin in the third decade of the nineteenth century, sold for \$60 to \$70 per thousand feet. Hardwood material at the Clark mill in Scott County, Iowa, is said to

³² A. G. Ellis's "The 'Upper Wisconsin' Country" in *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. III, p. 441; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 29.

³³ Walter Havighurst's *Upper Mississippi A Wilderness Saga*, pp. 190, 191.

³⁴ Willard Glazier's *Down the Great River*, p. 280.

have been available at \$35 a thousand feet in 1834, and that brought from Cincinnati at the same time was marketed for \$50 a thousand feet. By the middle 1840's the cost of timber products was much less than it had been previously. The price of "getting out" rails from forests in eastern Iowa was about sixty-two and a half cents a hundred. Those brought down the Mississippi and sold at the foot of the Upper Rapids were two dollars a hundred. The expense of erecting a cabin in the eastern part of the State in 1846 varied from \$50 to \$150. If a stable and sheds were added the total cost of all of the buildings was about \$500. By 1849-1850 the market price of lumber was \$10 to \$12 a thousand feet. Lumber at the Wisconsin mills in 1856 was \$12 a thousand or \$20 or more in Iowa. In a report of the lumbering business on the Upper Wisconsin submitted to the Wisconsin Senate by J. T. Kingston in January, 1857, the figures for various kinds of wood materials at the Dells were given as follows: lumber, \$15 a thousand feet; shingle and lath, \$2 a thousand feet; and timber and saw logs, \$10 a thousand feet.³⁵

The charges for rafting logs or lumber from the mills also varied in this period. Stephen Hanks received \$3 a thousand feet for rafting lumber in 1843, \$3.50 for logs, and 25 cents a thousand for carrying lath and shingles. The cost of "running out" lumber from the mills in Wisconsin to the lower market varied, according to season and distance, from \$5 to \$8 a thousand feet in the middle 1850's. This did not include wastage by breaking on the rapids which was estimated at about one-twentieth of the total cost.³⁶ The

³⁵ Ellis's "The 'Upper Wisconsin' Country" in *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. III, pp. 437, 443, 444; Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 65, 66; Wm. J. A. Bradford's *Notes on the Northwest*, p. 147.

³⁶ Russell's *A-Rafting on the Mississippi*, p. 109; Ellis's "The 'Upper Wisconsin' Country" in *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. III, p. 440.

charges for rafting logs were in some instances higher than for handling lumber, but logs sold for less than lumber so they could be purchased profitably by Iowa mill owners.

When rafting made lumber more easily available the price went down. A writer in 1846 said that lumber could be obtained at less than half the price it had been seven years earlier.³⁷ As the settlement of the State moved inland from the Mississippi River it followed the streams; and mills propelled largely by water power followed the same pattern. These mills helped to supply some of the demand for lumber and in turn helped to reduce the price.

As the sawmills at such places as Dubuque, Clinton, Muscatine, Fort Madison, and other river cities increased both in size and number, so also did the number of logs rafted down the river. The census of 1840 gave the value of lumber produced in the Iowa Territory as \$50,280. By 1850 the sawmills of this area, furnished with logs from inside and outside the State, were cutting sufficient lumber to rank Iowa in eleventh place in the nation.³⁸

The woodworking industry in Iowa grew up around the sawmills in many of the river towns. Furniture-manufacturing establishments often grew up around the sawmills. The planing mills, which developed along with other woodworking shops, were of two kinds. The large majority of the establishments manufactured sash, doors, window and door frames, and interior wood for stock. A smaller number of shops did custom work.³⁹

Iowa City, located some distance west of the Mississippi River, had carriagemakers and furniture-making shops as well as special chair-making shops. In 1855, Burlington

³⁷ John B. Newhall's *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, pp. 15, 16.

³⁸ Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, p. 72; William Duane Wilson's *Description of Iowa and Its Resources*, p. 85.

³⁹ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 41.

had a planing mill, four sash, door, and blind establishments, three steam sawmills, a shingle factory, a steam match factory, two furniture manufactories, and five wagon shops. At the same time, Muscatine had two sawmills, one stave factory, and three shingle machines all operated by steam, and Davenport had six sawmills, two planing mills, and two sash and blind factories, all operated by steam. Three years later Davenport had nine wagon shops, eight furniture factories, one employing 40 men, a wash tub factory, an establishment for building pianos, and 21 carpenter shops. LeClaire, a short distance to the north, had three wagon shops, two cooper establishments, two cabinet factories, and one boat yard where steamers were repaired and keelboats were constructed and rebuilt.⁴⁰

Not much is known about the amount and kinds of products that were manufactured in the first decade of settlement in Iowa, but by 1850 there were a number of woodworking establishments. The first indication on a State-wide basis of the kinds of woodworking industries, the number of establishments, and the volume of business was given in the Federal census of 1860.

Many of the early sawmills and woodworking establishments operated only a short time and were soon forgotten. Some that started in the pioneer period operated during the whole middle period of lumbering. A few of the woodworking establishments remain even today. Among those which continued in importance for many years are the D. Joyce and Company, the Clinton Lumber Company, the C. Lamb and Sons, and W. J. Young, all of Clinton, the Hershey Lumber Company and the Musser Lumber Company of Muscatine, Carson and Rand of Burlington, Knapp,

⁴⁰ Benj. F. Shambaugh's *The Old Stone Capitol Remembers*, pp. 291, 292; Nathan Howe Parker's *Iowa as It Is in 1855*, pp. 124, 161, 170; T. P. Christensen's "An Industrial History of Scott County, The Pioneer Period, 1833-1865" in *The Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XXII, pp. 120, 121; Franc B. Wilkie's *Davenport Past and Present*, pp. 260, 261, 263.

Stout, and Company of Fort Madison and Dubuque, and S. and J. C. Atlee of Fort Madison.

Beginning with the primitive mills in the valley of the Mississippi in the 1830's, the sawmilling industry spread westward across to the Missouri, until in 1859 there were 540 sawmills operating within Iowa, with an average annual product value of \$4,000 each. Of the 183,000,000 board feet of lumber produced by all the mills of the State in 1859, only 22,000,000 feet came from local sources. The balance consisted of white pine logs rafted down the Mississippi River from northern forests. Long before 1860, the end of the pioneer period, log cabins and sod houses had given way to frame structures. The coming of railroads in the middle 1850's made it possible to bring in lumber from the river towns, and to build towns, red barns, and white farmhouses over 1,000 miles of prairie.⁴¹

By the latter part of this period most of the local timber had been cut. Before the railroads reached the valleys of the Red Cedar and Iowa rivers, much of the best red cedar and walnut along these streams had been rafted to the Mississippi for down-river trade. The westward expansion of railroads had much to do with the exhaustion of timber. Every accessible tree that would make a good bridge timber or sleeper was cut almost before the prairie sections of the State were permanently occupied. Portable saws had come into use throughout most of the State for cutting the few remaining patches of original forest and the second growth timber. To add to the supply of local timber quick-growing trees such as the locusts and cottonwoods were planted by farmers for shade and windbreaks and for fence posts.⁴²

⁴¹ Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, p. 68; Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 35; Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, p. 64; Havighurst's *Upper Mississippi A Wilderness Saga*, p. 208.

⁴² Baker's *Native and Planted Timber of Iowa*, p. 9; John G. Wells's *Pocket Hand-book of Iowa* (1857), p. 31.

At the end of the pioneer period more and larger saw-mills were on the Mississippi River at points from which railroads started westward. To each of these cities such as McGregor, Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, and Burlington, logs could be rafted cheaply from the pineries of the North. The river mills by 1860 could not supply nearly all of the lumber needed; much was still sent from Chicago, which received lumber from other parts of the forested lake States, but even this addition was not always enough.⁴³

By the end of the pioneer period steam power was rapidly replacing water power. Steam mills were free from dependence on stream-power sites and could be placed at advantageous positions on the river at points where there were rail connections.

LUMBERING AS BIG BUSINESS

By the end of the pioneer period all of the valuable original forests of eastern Iowa had been depleted. Some mills away from the immediate vicinity of the Mississippi River were cutting second-growth timber but the bulk of the raw material during this middle period came from rafted logs. This practice had been started fairly early in the pioneer period. By 1850, lumbering was being developed rapidly in Wisconsin along the Wisconsin, Black, Red Cedar, St. Croix, Wolf, and Chippewa rivers. From these, logs were floated down the Mississippi to Iowa towns where they were cut into lumber and other wood products.⁴⁴

The central States reached the peak of their hardwood lumber production about 1880. At this time a very thorough canvass of the eastern and central parts of Iowa was made

⁴³ Rufus Blanchard's *Hand-book of Iowa*, p. 23.

⁴⁴ Havighurst's *Upper Mississippi A Wilderness Saga*, p. 157; Swisher's *Iowa Land of Many Mills*, pp. 68, 69.

for hardwood by furniture manufacturers, and the valuable walnut not previously found was located and taken out. After this, most of the wood used for commercial purposes in Iowa came from the pineries of Wisconsin. By 1890, Wisconsin was second in the Union in lumber production. Ten years later, it was in first place. Michigan ranked second and Minnesota third. The lake States, as a section, however, contributed only 25 per cent of the national total in contrast to the 32 per cent produced by the southern States. These figures indicate that as a section the lake States were being "cut out" rapidly and that the southern States were to be the new high production center.⁴⁵ The conditions which hastened the exhaustion of the pine forests of the north were the demands of an increasing population in the States along the Mississippi and a greater per capita use of wood products.

To meet these increasing requirements, a larger and more regular flow of raw materials was essential. The old method of floating logs down the river by means of the current was no longer rapid enough; other and faster means were necessary. Several changes contributed to a more effective way of rafting.

One of these involved the use of a steamboat to move the raft. The first steamboats so used were sidewheelers which towed the raft with a cable. These were not very satisfactory, so W. J. Young, a pioneer lumberman of Clinton, Iowa, encouraged Capt. Cyrus A. Bradley to hitch a stern-wheeler to the stern of a raft to push and guide it in the stream. In the middle 1860's, Bradley made a successful trip from the mouth of the St. Croix to Fort Madison using the sternwheeler *Minnie Wills* as a towboat.

As soon as this proved successful in rafting, large saw-

⁴⁵ Stanley E. Horn's *This Fascinating Lumber Business*, pp. 30-35, 67; *American Forests and Forest Products* (U. S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin, No. 21), pp. 56, 57.

mill firms and other boat owners used river steamers in every possible way. Ships of greater cost, power, and speed were introduced. By 1870, this method had practically supplanted the floating process. Sweeps were at first retained at the bow of the raft to aid in directing it in its course on the Mississippi, but later, a bowboat was used, which by moving backward and forward was able to guide the raft, leaving the stern boat free to use all of its power in pushing. This combination resulted in an average speed of three and a half miles per hour.⁴⁶

With the advent of the raft steamer, came the brailed raft, also planned by W. J. Young. Chains fastened around logs took the place of cross poles held down by pegs driven into the logs. This resulted in a tremendous saving of lumber as the ends of logs were no longer wasted because of peg holes. The brails were placed side by side much as the old type of raft had been arranged.

Another invention for guiding rafts was soon introduced. This "Clinton Nigger", a contribution of Chauncey Lamb, a leading lumberman of Clinton, proved so helpful that it was used from that time on by every boat in the rafting business. With this device the boat's position could be changed quickly and easily, forward or backward, in relation to the raft as the direction of the wind or the course of the stream required. This invention saved much time and money.⁴⁷

These various improvements of raft construction and operation made for larger, better, and more rafts on the

⁴⁶ John M. Holley's "Waterways and Lumber Interests of Western Wisconsin" in *Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, 1906, p. 214; Irving B. Richman's *History of Muscatine County Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 81; Edward W. Durant's "Lumbering and Steamboating on the St. Croix River" in *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*, Vol. X, Part II, p. 665; Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, p. 76.

⁴⁷ Richman's *History of Muscatine County Iowa*, Vol. I, pp. 81, 82.

Mississippi from the Lake Pepin region of Minnesota to St. Louis. Along this busy thoroughfare were many towns important as lumber centers because they were accessible to raw materials and were near markets. Among these in Iowa were Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keokuk.

In order to keep a constant supply of logs available for the mills of river towns, logging companies were formed. In April, 1866, the Wisconsin legislature gave authority for the erection of booms, piers, wing dams, and other structures necessary for the work of booming⁴⁸ logs, providing that such works presented no obstruction to navigation. In accordance with these provisions, the Beef Slough⁴⁹ Manufacturing, Booming, Log-Driving, and Transportation Company was formed. This corporation constructed extensive improvements at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000 for a distance of five miles along the river. In 1889, these works were transferred across the river to West Newton, Minnesota. During that same decade, the Mississippi Logging Company was organized. It also used Beef Slough as a reservoir for logs.

These two companies for many years controlled almost the entire stock used by the mills on the Mississippi below this point. The total amount handled by the Beef Slough and West Newton works from 1867 to 1896 was over 8,000,000,000 feet of logs. The total for an average season amounted to about 300,000,000 feet. Over a hundred steam-

⁴⁸ "Booming" was the process of making large rafts by collecting loose logs and small rafts which had come down from tributary streams.

⁴⁹ The name of Beef Slough came from an incident which occurred in 1829. Jefferson Davis had been sent to the Red Cedar River, a tributary of the Chippewa, to cut logs needed for the repair of Fort Crawford. The log raft, on which were the oxen and outfit, was overturned at the junction of the Red Cedar and Chippewa and several of the oxen were drowned in the slough.—M. M. Quaife's "The Northwestern Career of Jefferson Davis" in *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society*, No. 30 (1923), p. 65.

boats and several thousand men were used during the period of peak production to carry timber from Wisconsin and Minnesota gathering centers to Mississippi River towns downstream from the centers. The usual toll charge for handling material at Beef Slough was seventy-five cents a thousand feet for logs and timber, two cents each for ties, and a penny each for fence posts.⁵⁰

Various arrangements were made for obtaining personnel for making the rafts and for piloting them. In the pioneer period, as well as in some cases later, pilots were hired by the day to guide the rafts. For this work, they received from five to fifteen dollars as a daily wage. Those with more available funds entered into a contract with a producer to take boards in pile at the mill. They then furnished all necessary men and outlay and delivered the lumber at Dubuque or other river towns at a stipulated price per thousand feet. The charge in the early 1870's for towing rafted logs from Beef Slough or West Newton to points in Iowa was \$1.10 per thousand feet.⁵¹

During the period when large scale rafting was common, many of the larger and more progressive lumber companies operated their own boats, but smaller mills depended upon regular steamboat companies and free lance captains. The Clinton rafting fleet in 1879 numbered eight sternwheel steamers and gave employment to about 175 men.

Neither lumbering in the north woods nor rafting on the Mississippi lasted long, because the supply of timber was

⁵⁰ Lucius P. Allen's *The History of Clinton County, Iowa* (1879), p. 526; Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, pp. 449, 635; Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, p. 72; E. W. Gould's *Fifty Years on the Mississippi*, p. 742; Franklin B. Hough's *Report upon Forestry*, 1877 [Vol. I], pp. 529, 530. Another source gives the amount of logs as from 400 to 600 million feet.—Russell's *A-Rafting on the Mississippi*, p. 238.

⁵¹ Ellis's "The 'Upper Wisconsin' Country" in *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. III, pp. 439, 440; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 290, 291.

used much more rapidly than new growth could take place.⁵² After five decades of large scale lumbering, the original softwood forests were largely "cut out" and by the close of the nineteenth century lumbermen and sawmill owners turned their attention to the softwoods of the southern States and the Pacific Northwest.

During the four decades following the coming of railroads to Iowa, bands of steel were flung westward across the nation; those reaching the wooded regions of the Northwest were of aid in bringing new supplies of lumber to Iowa. In 1894, the Northern Pacific Railroad established special east-bound rates on lumber and other forest products. These low rates were intended to stimulate lumbering and the movement of raw materials in large amounts from the Pacific Northwest to eastern markets. The railroad could afford to be generous for a time. It encouraged lumbermen to come to the northwest so that the timber on large forested areas owned by the railroad could be marketed. It also wanted to carry as freight the lumber products cut from land not owned by the company. In 1907, the railroad increased its rates 20 to 25 per cent, causing financial stress among sawmills of the northwestern States, but better rates were made later.⁵³

During this middle period a distinct pattern of mills and woodworking establishments developed. The many small mills in Mississippi River towns, which cut local timber or rafts of logs that were floated downstream at regular intervals, disappeared and large mills with many saws were concentrated in the larger river towns. The number of mills decreased as the size increased. In this middle period of

⁵² Logging on the Wisconsin River ended about 1876, on the Black River in 1897, on the Chippewa in 1905, and on the St. Croix about 1914.—Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 291.

⁵³ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 42.

large producing units, wood-using firms in the river counties began to specialize in certain types of products which were marketed throughout the State as well as in other parts of the Middle West. Sawmills, largely portable in type and scattered throughout the State, cut lumber for fencing, for repair material, and for utilization in wood-using industries.

The importance of the river counties in lumber production is pointed out by the statistics for particular years at intervals throughout the period. The amount of lumber sawed in the ten river counties in 1870 was over 63 per cent of the total for the State. In 1880, these same counties produced 85 per cent of the whole amount and their contribution in 1885 was 97.49 per cent of the State's total, valued at \$8,485,531.

Definite lumbering centers were formed early in the middle period. During the 1875-1876 season, Clinton and the adjoining town, Lyons, contributed 40.5 per cent of the total lumber cut of Iowa. Davenport was second with 17.2 per cent, and Muscatine third with 11.1 per cent. In 1885, Clinton still ranked first with a total of \$4,046,643 for lumber, but Dubuque was second with \$1,310,000. Muscatine was still third with \$1,026,000. Four years later Iowa reached its peak in lumber production.⁵⁴

These large mills resulted from equipment changes. The early sash saws were replaced by circular and gang saws early in the middle period. These gang saws made possible the cutting of a log into boards in one operation. The use of band saws beginning about 1889, produced a better quality product and effected a marked saving in material because of a smaller kerf.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 36; Hough's *Report upon Forestry, 1877* [Vol. I], p. 544.

⁵⁵ R. C. Bryant's *Prices of Lumber* (War Industries Board Price Bulletin, No. 43), pp. 5, 6. The kerf was the slit produced by the saw.

The material cut in these river mills was largely of one kind. The bulk of the lumber, lath, and shingles manufactured in Iowa before 1900 was made of white pine; smaller amounts of chestnut, southern white cedar, and other woods were used.⁵⁶

The products of the woodworking industries during this middle period varied much more than did those of sawmills. There were firms making willow baskets, various kinds of wooden boxes, coffins, cooperage, furniture, planing-mill products, and ships and boats. Many other items were not listed separately or were produced in such small amounts that they did not appear in statistical tables. Most of the factories making these various products during this period were concentrated in the towns along the Mississippi because at these points the supply of raw material for most purposes was obtained cheaply by river rafting.⁵⁷

Making willow baskets was for many years a small business in a few centers in the State. Because of a local willow patch, Burlington was one of the State's chief contributors of these products. Many kinds of boxes were made in Iowa during the middle period. Early in the period, Iowa produced 2.5 per cent of the cigar boxes of the nation; later this decreased to 1 per cent. Coffin-making held a steady rank with respect to the nation's output throughout the middle period. This was about 2 per cent until 1904 after which it reached almost to the 3 per cent mark. Cloth-covered caskets were made principally from chestnut and pine, while about one-half of those made entirely of wood were of chestnut and cypress. Some thirty other woods were used in

⁵⁶ Nelson C. Brown's *Forest Products Their Manufacture and Use*, pp. 351, 352.

⁵⁷ Royal S. Kellogg's *Lumber and Its Uses*, pp. 192, 221, 223, 226; Brown's *Forest Products Their Manufacture and Use*, pp. 92, 248; Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, pp. 63-68; Hough's *Report upon Forestry*, 1877 [Vol. I], pp. 558-563; William J. Petersen's "Steamboats 'Dubuque'" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. X, pp. 398-411.

small amounts for this purpose. Dubuque, Muscatine, and Burlington became manufacturing centers for these products during the middle period.

The manufacture of cooperage products during the first part of the middle period was also an important industry in Iowa, contributing as much as 8 per cent of the nation's total. Within a decade Iowa's percentage of this amount had gradually decreased to the 2 per cent mark near which it remained during the remainder of the period. Among the river towns, Burlington and Keokuk became production centers for these goods.

Furniture manufacturers found hardwoods more satisfactory for their purposes than white pine. The local supply of these was limited and as early as the 1870's some effort was made to insure future supplies by planting several kinds of trees which could be used for furniture construction as well as for other purposes. In the 1880's, furniture manufacturers culled Iowa's forested area for suitable woods. Among the more common woods used to make furniture were walnut, oak, maple, birch, red gum, yellow poplar, chestnut, beech, elm, and basswood. Since 1900, veneers have been utilized to a large extent in the furniture industry. By the end of the middle period, red gum was used for about one-third of all veneer work and smaller amounts of white oak and yellow pine also were employed. Furniture centers of the middle period included Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, and Burlington. Iowa made almost 4 per cent of the nation's furniture in 1859, but since 1890 has contributed less than 1 per cent of that amount.

Planing mills were found in all river towns as well as in most other places having available lumber. During peak production, planing-mill products were the second most important item from the Iowa wood industries ranking below lumber, lath, and shingle manufacture. Sash and doors, a

few of the items included in this class, were made almost entirely from white pine procured by rafting.

Though never manufactured in large numbers or sizes, some boats have always been made in Iowa. During the middle period, these were made largely of pine but oak and other woods were used in their manufacture. Dubuque, in this period as well as later, was the chief center for ship-building.

A general view of lumbering during the middle period can be obtained by dividing the period into two parts of three decades each. From 1859 to 1889, the first of these parts, the lumber production of Iowa increased, but from 1889 to 1909 it decreased at about the same rate. During the second interval, the total production of the United States continued to increase and the percentage of Iowa production, compared to that of the national total, decreased successively from 2.25 per cent in 1889 to 0.30 per cent in 1909. In 1869, Iowa ranked ninth in the nation in lumber production, in 1879 tenth, in 1889 twelfth, and in 1899 it was no longer listed among the leading States.⁵⁸

When lumber was no longer available by river rafting and the railroads brought supplies from the southern and western States, the charges for carrying lumber the several hundred miles from the forest to the manufacturing centers and markets added costs to the material used in woodworking. Freight rates for lumber were from eight to ten dollars a thousand board feet and these costs were a burden upon the woodworking industries that remained in Iowa.⁵⁹

In this situation, firms using wood had two choices. They could move to the southern States or the Pacific Northwest

⁵⁸ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 86, 87; *American Forests and Forest Products* (U. S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin, No. 21), p. 56.

⁵⁹ W. B. Greeley's "The Relation of Geography to Timber Supply" in the *Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution*, 1925, p. 537.

and relocate there, or they could remain where they were and try, by effective management, to remain in competition. The ones that stayed had the advantage of being nearer their markets than those moving to the newer lumbering centers. The Gardiner Company and the D. Joyce Company of Lyons were two of the several firms which obtained lumbering interests elsewhere. The Musser Company and the Roach-Musser Company of Muscatine were two which chose to remain in Iowa.⁶⁰

When any region, though rich in timber, is "cut out" much more rapidly than new growth can take place, the end is total destruction. One steamboat captain prophesied as follows about lumbering and rafting a few years after peak production in Iowa: "The business has seen its best years. Forest fires and chopper's axe have destroyed nearly all of the good timber accessible. The average size of the logs diminishes each year; mill after mill will close when its supply of white pine is exhausted; one by one the two boats that have chased each other up and down the grand old river will be laid to rest and rot."⁶¹

The truth of these prophetic words was soon to be felt in Iowa. By the close of 1906, the year the last log raft came to an Iowa town, only a few sawmills were in operation along the Mississippi. The last of these was the Atlee mill at Fort Madison which closed in 1913. After this, sawmilling became again a local industry. The last raft of lumber on the Mississippi moved from Hudson, Wisconsin, to Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1915.⁶²

With the close of the rafting period, the people of Iowa

⁶⁰ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, pp. 595, 599.

⁶¹ Walter A. Blair's "Rafting on the Upper Mississippi" in the *Davenport Democrat*, August 4, 1893.

⁶² Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 33; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 281.

again turned their attention to local timber and by 1909, nearly 500 small, mostly portable, sawmills were being operated in Iowa. Cottonwood and silver maple, previously deemed unsatisfactory for lumber, were used for interior construction and sold for from \$22 to \$28 a thousand board feet.⁶³

LUMBERING SINCE 1910

River rafting, so characteristic of the middle period, came to an end about 1910, although a few log rafts were brought down the Mississippi until 1913 when the last of the river sawmills closed. Rafts of sawed lumber, constructed in part from material that would have been rejected twenty years earlier, came down occasionally until 1915 when the last of these reached Fort Madison.

A word picture of the river scenes following the end of rafting is given in a quotation by a writer familiar with river towns at that time: "Thirty years ago [1886] the traveler bound east or west, in crossing the great Father of Waters at Clinton, would have seen piles of sawed timbers covering the entire river front, while banks of logs lay inside their booms for miles and miles along the shores. To-day [1916] the picture is a mere memory. Here and there may be seen scattered piles of worm-eaten, weather-stained lumber — the only suggestion of a time when Clinton made millionaires, who exacted their tribute from the far-away pine forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin. In days now long since gone the river swarmed with huge rafts manned by turbulent river drivers whose magic touch controlled the course of acres upon acres of logs."⁶⁴

By the end of the middle period most of the softwood

⁶³ G. B. MacDonald's "Forestry and Forest Resources of Iowa" in *The Book of Iowa*, p. 165; Baker's *Native and Planted Timber of Iowa*, p. 9.

⁶⁴ Thomas Teakle's "The Romance of Iowa History" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XIV, p. 165.

which reached Iowa came from the Pacific Northwest, although the pine regions of the southern States were actually much closer to Iowa. The concessions made by the Northern Pacific Railroad as early as 1894 were, however, more than enough to compensate for the difference in mileage. A forty-cent per hundred freight rate was established for carrying lumber from the States of Oregon and Washington to St. Paul with similar rates for comparable distances. Such low rates did not last long; they were replaced by other arrangements somewhat favorable to the wood manufacturer. Late in the middle period, milling-in-transit was allowed without additional freight charges on lumber shipped to midwestern towns where it was manufactured and then sent to markets elsewhere. By 1917, due to some increases, the freight rates borne by the softwood marketed in the Middle West were from six to thirteen dollars a thousand board feet, depending upon the kind of wood and the distance carried, or from 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the retail price of the goods made from the lumber. In 1927, fees of 11½ cents per hundred pounds were charged if lumber was manufactured at a point between the source and the market.⁶⁵

The increase in carrying charges throughout the period produced strong competition between Iowa manufacturers and those located near the timber source where the price of lumber was lower and through rates for finished goods to eastern markets were available. Notwithstanding these conditions, effective management and diversified production have made it possible to retain wood-using industries in eastern Iowa river towns and other centers farther west.

While softwoods have always been procured largely from

⁶⁵ Ovid M. Butler's *The Distribution of Softwood Lumber in the Middle West* (U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary, Report No. 115), pp. 42, 53; Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, pp. 42, 45; Bryant's *Prices of Lumber*, p. 12.

outside Iowa, many species of hardwoods grow in the State, but the supply of these has never been equal to the demands of manufacturers. Throughout the third period, some of this wood came from the broadleaf forests of other parts of the Midwest and from the southern States. During this same time, the amount of Iowa-grown timber used was but a small percentage of the total amount of hardwood consumed, partly because the total amount of timber in the State of sufficient size and quality for manufacturing purposes has been smaller than the amount needed yearly. The total area of land in forests in Iowa in 1935 was 2,312,244 acres of which 2,060,105 acres were pastured.⁶⁶

In a survey of wood-using industries conducted in 1926, it was found that Iowa wood manufacturers preferred to buy raw material from other than local producers, because Iowa woods had been found inferior for high grade products and they were, in some cases, poorly sawed, graded, and seasoned. Several wood users also reported that they did not wish to purchase less than carload lots of lumber and local producers seldom had that amount to sell.⁶⁷

During the middle period sawmilling was an important industry in Iowa, but by 1909 the Iowa percentage of the national total had decreased to 0.30 per cent. This decrease continued until by 1939 production of lumber in Iowa was only 0.002 per cent of the total for the United States; and Iowa's standing among the various States producing lumber was 44th in 1934 and 43rd in 1939. The status of sawmilling in Iowa compared with other industries in the State was equally insignificant. In 1919 sawmilling ranked ninth among the industries but thereafter due to decreased vol-

⁶⁶ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 90, 91.

⁶⁷ C. Lewis Harrison's "Markets for Iowa Grown Timber" (manuscript master's thesis, Iowa State College, 1926), pp. 72-74; MacDonald's "Forestry and Forest Resources of Iowa" in *The Book of Iowa*, p. 165,

ume of production, it declined until in both 1929 and 1939 lumbering was grouped with minor industries and lost its identity.⁶⁸

The rank of Iowa in lumber production during the third period has, however, been no indication of the number of mills in the State. Nearly 500 small sawmills were operating in Iowa in 1912, but a government publication reported only 5 sawmills in Iowa in 1928, and in a similar report listed 11 in 1930. A discrepancy between government figures and those compiled in unofficial surveys, such as that made by the Department of Forestry of Iowa State College in 1934 when 428 mills were listed, may be explained by the fact that the United States Census Bureau does not count a sawmill unless the yearly production of lumber is in excess of 50,000 board feet. There were 15 mills in Iowa cutting more than that amount in 1939, producing a total of 5,164,000 board feet of lumber, 30 in 1940, sawing 9,971,000 board feet, and 128 in 1941, cutting 32,544,000 board feet of lumber.⁶⁹

The author of one of the most recent publications on Iowa sawmilling wrote in 1942: "Practically no data are available relative to the present location of sawmills in Iowa, nor are data available which offer any information as to the number of mills in the various counties of the State. Foresters who are acquainted with Iowa report that there are, at present [1942], several small sawmills in almost every county."⁷⁰

One mill, owned by the Webster Lumber Company of St. Paul, was operating near Burlington in 1940. That year it

⁶⁸ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 86, 87.

⁶⁹ MacDonald's "Forestry and Forest Products of Iowa" in *The Book of Iowa*, p. 165; Horn's *This Fascinating Lumber Business*, p. 299.

⁷⁰ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XI, pp. 83, 84.

employed 10 men and produced 20,749 railroad ties and 107,873 board feet of lumber for the season. The daily capacity averaged 300 ties and 1,500 feet of lumber. Except for a small number of mills owned by this company, most of the sawmills during the past twenty-five years have been owned locally, some by farmers who operate them during the winter. In a few cases, the mills produce lumber throughout the year. The labor supply for the operation of these sawmills throughout the period has been available in the communities where the mills are located. Many of the workers so employed have been farmers working part time for their neighbors.

The sawmills operating in Iowa now are largely portable or semi-portable in type and can be moved readily from one place to another. Most of them consist of a circular saw with a log carriage. A few have edgers to remove the outer parts of the boards and rip them into desired widths. Before 1925, these sawmills were propelled by steam tractors but have since then been operated by internal combustion engines, some by old automobile engines which furnish the power for operating the saw and moving the saw rig. Such saws have a limited capacity of from 1,000 feet to a maximum of 10,000 feet of lumber a day. The wood reaches the market as mine props, railroad ties, posts, and lumber of various dimensions.⁷¹

Many kinds of wood are sawed in Iowa mills, but a few species have always been used in larger amounts than the others. In 1913 oak, walnut, cottonwood, and elm were the most used woods. The amount of walnut cut varied greatly from year to year. In 1913 the production was 290,000 board feet, and in 1914, nearly 5,000,000 board feet. Some of this increase was caused by wartime use for gunstocks. Ten years later, when this wood was much desired for furni-

⁷¹ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 84-86.

ture construction, well over 7,000,000 feet was produced. Since 1930, however, there has been a marked decrease in the cut of walnut. Of the 49 kinds of wood used in industries of Iowa in 1947, 17 were grown in the State — ash, basswood, birch, black walnut, butternut, cherry, cottonwood, elm, gum, hemlock, hickory, maple, three varieties of oak, Jack pine, and red cedar. Sycamore and hackberry, listed as Iowa woods in 1924, were not cut for commercial use in 1947.⁷²

While sawmilling decreased greatly in Iowa during the third period, woodworking industries in general maintained more steady production levels. Most products were made in quantities comparable to that of the last part of the middle period, and a few types of goods were produced in increasingly larger amounts. The manufacture of washing machines, for example, increased tremendously from 1914, when Iowa produced 23.1 per cent of the nation's total, to 1927, when the amount had risen to 49.5 per cent of that total. During the third period, however, manufacturers changed from wood to metal machines so that the increased production of this appliance did not imply a corresponding increase in the amount of wood used. During the first decade and a half of the third period, lumber and its remanufactures varied from third to sixth place among the industries of Iowa.⁷³

The most striking change in the production of Iowa wood products occurred in the output of certain planing mills which previously had not been reported as large manufacturers. In 1933 such establishments in Iowa contributed 20 per cent of the nation's sash output, 5 per cent of the door

⁷² Harrison's "Markets for Iowa Grown Timber" (manuscript thesis), p. 5.

⁷³ Ruth L. Hoadley's *Industrial Growth in Iowa* (*Iowa Studies in Business*, No. 2, State University of Iowa), pp. 16, 69; H. H. McCarty's *Manufacturing Trends in Iowa* (*Iowa Studies in Business*, No. 8, State University of Iowa), p. 57.

frames, and 33 per cent of the doors made in this country.⁷⁴

Although there were some decreases in the amount of goods produced and some change in rank with respect to such industries throughout the nation, Iowa woodworking firms have been able to compete successfully against companies nearer the source of raw materials and many firms have remained in operation for several years. Another proof that some companies have prospered is indicated by the opening of new branch firms elsewhere. This has been especially true of the larger companies started during the rafting period which are located in cities along the Mississippi.

Following the period of concentration of lumbering and its associated industries along the Mississippi, a variation in the distribution pattern took place. In the third period, when lumber came to the State by rail, the river towns continued as production centers for woodworking products. When lumber became available at all places having rail connections with the source regions, cities in the State away from the Mississippi River started to manufacture the goods for which there was a local demand. Indeed, some of the wood manufacturing shops in the smaller towns had existed in pioneer and middle periods. These continued to operate during the third period and others were started. In total numbers there were more factories in the smaller towns than in larger centers during the third period but these contributed less of the total amount of goods produced in proportion to their numbers. The present pattern of wood-using industries includes several large companies in each of the more densely populated centers and a single firm in several of the smaller towns.

The products made by wood-using industries in the third

⁷⁴ *The Book of Iowa*, pp. 49, 50; Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, pp. 57-59.

period have been, with the exception of car parts, much the same as those produced in the last half of the middle period. Throughout the third period the groupings of products changed somewhat so that certain types of goods lost their identity in census figures. Sash, doors, and blinds, for example, were, after 1880, classified under the general heading of planing-mill products.

The survey made in February, 1947, for this dissertation included replies from 170 wood-using firms making 77 individual items, including millwork for construction purposes, farm machinery, barrels, baskets, boxes and crates, cabinets, caskets, cedar chests, fences, and various fixtures for home, store, and office use. The softwoods which came to the State during the third period were largely Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, and other woods from the Pacific Northwest. A much smaller proportion of softwood and some hardwood came to Iowa from midwestern and southern States.⁷⁵

While sawmills in Iowa cut several kinds of Iowa-grown hardwood during the third period, the amount of these used by manufacturers of wood products was a small percentage of the total. Of the 586,799,000 board feet of lumber consumed in the State in 1926, only 14,002,000 came from Iowa mills. Wood-using industries at that time needed 191,000,000 board feet a year. Only one-half of one per cent of the total lumber consumed in 1936 came from the forests within Iowa.⁷⁶ During the recent war, wood-using firms had difficulty in obtaining raw material from the usual sources. They were forced to use whatever they could get which

⁷⁵ MacDonald's "Wood-Using Industries of Iowa" in *Ames Forester*, Vol. XI, pp. 103-111; Harrison's "Markets for Iowa Grown Timber" (manuscript thesis), pp. 26, 28, 30-35, 38-42, 44-48, 51-53, 61-71; McCarty's *Manufacturing Trends in Iowa*, pp. 60-63; *The Book of Iowa*, pp. 49, 50, 60.

⁷⁶ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, p. 89; R. V. Reynolds and A. H. Pierson's *Lumber Distribution for 1936*, p. 45.

would serve the purpose. This difficulty was mentioned repeatedly in replies received in the 1947 survey of wood-using industries. At that time, lumber was being received from thirty-five States in this country as well as from various parts of Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa, and the Philippine Islands.

No statistics as to the amount of value of products sold in various areas during the third period were compiled in the 1947 survey of wood-using industries, but a significant number of responses indicated that local markets still absorb a large percentage of the wood products available, although the markets included areas beyond the State. Several firms stated that their merchandise was sold throughout the State as well as in other midwestern States. About 20 per cent of the companies answering the inquiry suggested that the market for their goods was nationwide. A few firms at present sell products outside continental United States. A complete report of all activities of wood-using industries in Iowa in 1947 cannot be given because no data has been received from some companies in operation at present.

Present day manufacturers of wood products in Iowa have several problems. Since Iowa is a prairie State and its small forests have been cut over several times, much of the wood used in manufacture must come from the commercial forests of the Pacific Northwest and the southern States. Iowa manufacturers have found that careful management is necessary to compete successfully on a national scale against wood-using companies located closer to the source of raw materials. The nearness of Iowa factories to their markets and the supply of skilled labor in Iowa manufacturing centers have helped in part to compensate for the high freight costs for carrying lumber great distances. Friendly trade relationships established over a period of time between manufacturing companies and retail dealers

composing their markets have also helped to counteract competition from out-of-State manufacturers.

Although Iowa must always receive much of its lumber from outside, more local wood than is used at present may be available in the future. The Iowa State Planning Board, the United States Soil Conservation Service, and the State Conservation Commission are working toward setting aside certain areas as forest lands, and are attempting to guard against forest fires and poor cutting practices.⁷⁷

Barring unfavorable changes, the wood-using industries of Iowa should continue to operate for some time much as they have done in the past three decades during which much of the lumber used has come from great distances by rail.⁷⁸ So long as wood processing continues to be based on skilled labor and hand-manufacture with a minimum use of machinery, it will undoubtedly continue to operate successfully in decentralized units which supply local markets, as well as those extending over greater areas. If, however, circumstances based either on historic conditions or production factors, change the present production methods to the assembly line specialization now used in automobile and airplane manufacture, wood-using industries in Iowa will either develop greatly or die out entirely.

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⁷⁷ Hartman's "The Iowa Sawmill Industry" in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XL, pp. 92, 93.

⁷⁸ *The Book of Iowa*, p. 50; *Iowa A Guide to the Hawkeye State*, p. 96.

PIONEER LIFE IN PALO ALTO COUNTY

MEMOIRS OF E. MAY LACEY CROWDER¹

My father was Alvin Vosberg Lacey, born July 3, 1832, at Mason, Michigan. My mother, Sarah Eveline Carr, was born at Ellensville, New York, on November 13, 1836. When father and mother were married, on November 23, 1857, they had their clothing and father's trade, that of carpenter, and nothing else. For a short time they lived at the home of father's married sister, Harriet Lacey Tressler. Their first child, Fred, was born on September 6, 1858, and nineteen months later, on March 31, 1860, another son, Frank, was added to the family. Both boys were born at White Rock, Illinois.

Land in that vicinity was rising in value, so father and mother decided to go farther west where land was to be had almost for the taking. Iowa, with its broad prairies and fertile lands, was beckoning, and they decided to locate there. The journey was made by covered wagon, as most of the migrating was done at that time. It was getting late in the fall of 1860, but they were young and full of hope and made light of the hardship of camping with two babies wherever night overtook them. Their early lives had been spent amid such surroundings.

When they finally arrived at their destination, in Howard County, there was not a vacant house to be had, but they located an empty corn crib, a pretty cold-looking place even to camp in. It had a roof, however, and mother, being accustomed to making the best of things, made it fairly liv-

¹ These reminiscences were written between 1930 and 1932 and were edited by Mrs. Crowder's daughter, Mrs. Walker Moore Alderton. Because of space requirements the manuscript has been shortened and much personal material omitted.

able by tacking blankets and spare bedding to the slats. They soon afterward decided upon an eighty-acre farm which they bought. On it was a small log cabin, consisting of one room and a loft, in which they made themselves comfortable for the winter. The farm was at the edge of a wood and fuel was plentiful.

One of the neighbors mentioned a wagon-load of potatoes intended for the market, which had been frozen during the night. Father looked them over and offered a dollar for them. His offer was accepted and he started home with his purchase. As he drove he sorted the potatoes, throwing out the frozen ones. He found that there were enough good potatoes to last the family through the winter. With a little more judicious buying the family was provided with the necessities by the time winter set in.

Father, in the meantime, had obtained work at carpentering. His first work was seven miles from home. Mother, with her two babies, was timid, so he used to walk home at night and back again the next morning. Father was a small man, five feet six inches in height, but he was strong and wiry, and nothing seemed to tire him.

I was born in the little log cabin near Chester, Howard County, Iowa, about one mile from the Minnesota line, on November 2, 1861. The Civil War had begun the previous spring and my father, like most young men of the time, wished to be in the thick of it, but under the circumstances he delayed enlistment, ran the little farm, at odd moments hauled and cut wood, and in other ways prepared for army service later on.

At last, when I was not quite a year old, mother consented for father to go and on August 14, 1862, he joined Company I of the Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry. The newness of Iowa and the fluidity of its population in 1862 is indicated by the fact that not one of the 104 men of Company I had been born in either Minnesota or Iowa, the States in

which the company had been recruited. One-fifth of the company had been born outside the United States, seventeen of them being of British origin.

While the men were on the way to the front there was an epidemic of measles among them. Many of these recruits were neighbors and friends and father took upon himself the duty of nursing them. All recovered. In the army, nurses were very scarce and when it was learned that father was adapted to that work, he was immediately given hospital duty, much to his disgust. Being active by nature, he much preferred the infantry. In fact, several times he left the hospital and made his way to the fighting troops, but each time he was returned to hospital duty, in which he spent the remainder of the war years.

While father was in hospital work he was naturally exposed to all sorts of contagion. Sanitary conditions were bad and there were few conveniences. As for antiseptics, about the only things available were soap and water, not always the best soap or the cleanest water. Smallpox was prevalent in its worst form, but father had been vaccinated twice and physicians said he probably would never have it. For one whole summer he nursed the victims of that disease, feeling no anxiety on his own account. But the following summer, when he had not seen a case for several months, he was suddenly stricken with the dreaded disease.

He had a very severe attack, but he was in the hands of two nurses as competent as any who were available. His skin was kept constantly oiled and, as an additional precaution against disfiguration, his hands were tied. Although he recovered without the pits or scars often left by the eruption, his eyes were permanently affected and he later completely lost the sight of one of them. His early death on February 1, 1885, at the age of fifty-two was attributed to the aftereffects of this attack of smallpox.²

² Sarah Eveline Carr Lacey died at Curlew, Iowa, on March 19, 1915.

When peace finally came, the men from our section of the country were brought up the Mississippi River by boat and disembarked at Davenport. No longer under orders and free to do as they wished, they threw their knapsacks down in a pile on the shore and proceeded uptown to celebrate their freedom. When they returned several hours later, a large, very black Negro was sitting there watching their things. "What are you doing there, Snowball", said father. "Well, dey didn't seem to be anybody taking care of dese, so I thought I would", was the answer. That was the beginning of the acquaintance and, as a result, "Nigger Jim" came home with father and remained for about a year and a half. He was honest and faithful and idolized the whole family. I was between four and five years old at the time and was a great favorite with Jim, whose admiration I reciprocated.

One of Jim's pet aversions was cats; and the cats returned the sentiment with a vengeance. A mother cat had been keeping her family under the lounge, which had a calico valance, but when she saw a black man coming in at the door she gave a yowl and fled. As soon as she could do so, she carried out her babies, one by one, and hid them in the woodpile, where they remained until they were big enough to get about. Later they began coming back into the house. Jim didn't like cats, so, I reasoned, there must be something wrong with them, and they must be punished to make them good. As I picked up each kitten to put it out of the house, I held it by the tail and whacked it over the head with a stick, while Jim stood by and applauded. The joke was too good to keep, however, and Jim told mother who promptly put a stop to my disciplinary activities.

Father considered the farm a home rather than a money-making enterprise. A good team of horses, one cow to supply us with butter and milk, a pig or two for meat, chickens

enough to supply the table with eggs and a chicken to eat now and then were all he wanted. He expected to earn money by working at his trade. Mother had different ideas. During his absence she had accumulated nine cows. Butter sold for sixty cents a pound so she was able to support the family nicely even though she paid sixty cents a yard for her calico. But milking cows did not appeal to father; one week from the time he returned there was only one left.

There was no herd law in Iowa at the time and the farmers turned their cattle out in the morning to graze wherever they would during the day. A bell was strapped on the neck of one of the herd to make it easy to keep track of their wanderings. One evening when Fred was seven and a half and Frank not yet six, they were sent to bring the cattle home. It was one of those delusively pleasant days in April and the little boys started without their jackets, wearing only their pants and calico waists, expecting to be gone only a little while. But the cattle were farther away than father thought and when the boys found them, the animals refused to go in the direction Fred thought home should be.

A cold north wind sprang up and the cattle went better, quite willing to follow the course of the wind. Fred finally decided that he did not know where he was and the boys abandoned the cattle and tried to find their way home without them. By that time it had grown quite dark. The boys were too tired to go any farther and lay down in the woods, where they spent the night. As time passed and the boys did not come, father started out to find them. Fred heard his shouts and answered, but his childish voice did not carry so far. The neighbors were notified and all responded except one, a very unpopular man that night. The search was kept up all night without results.

As soon as it began to grow light, the boys arose and started on. They soon came upon a road which they fol-

lowed until they reached a house where they stopped to inquire the way. They were weak from hunger and shivering with cold so they could hardly stand or speak. Fred explained that they were lost, had been out all night, and wanted to know the way home. The man, evidently in a bad humor, told them to follow the road they were on and it would take them to the school section. Then he added, with an oath, "Be off, you little devils." The boys did not know what "school section" meant, and, as the road was a very dim one, when they came to another which looked better to them Frank insisted on following it.

Finally they came to the house of Bill Nye. He had been a comrade of father's in the army and the boys were not afraid of him. They were taken in, each one was given a big cup of hot ginger tea, and they were fed and warmed. Mr. Nye then took them on horseback and started home with them. On the way they met father who transferred them to his own horse and brought them home. The neighbors were called in from the search by shouting and blowing horns.

When I was seven my parents decided to remove to Storm Lake, Iowa, that location seeming to have more promise for the future than Howard County where we were living. Our few belongings were loaded into a couple of covered wagons and we started on the first of May, 1869. It was a wonderful trip for us children. One wagon was drawn by a team of horses and the other by mules. The country was still very new and there were few bridges over the streams and little or no grading done on the roads. The spring had been rainy and we sometimes found ourselves stuck in the mud. Then it became necessary to use both teams on one wagon. At times a long chain was attached to the wagon tongue and the horses and mules were hitched to that, in order to give them solid footing.

Mother had packed a big barrel of provisions and we camped wherever night overtook us. We stopped for an hour at noon and took a cold lunch out of the barrel. At night our simple cooking was done over a camp fire. There was always tea for father and mother and meat or eggs and a warm vegetable for all, as well as pie or cake. While mother prepared the evening meal we children raced and romped enjoying our relief from the long hours in the wagons.

Our one cow was tied at the rear of one of the wagons and her calf, which had been left unweaned in anticipation of the journey, was permitted to run free. At night the calf was tied up and the cow was turned loose, for we well knew that she would not go far without her calf. One evening, after things had been arranged for the night, the calf broke loose. He immediately started at top speed to make the most of his liberty and the cow followed the calf. The tie rope was dragging and we children finally got hold of it, but it took our combined strength to hold his calfship and guide him back to camp.

At the end of two weeks we arrived at Fort Dodge, then a little town, on the Des Moines River in Webster County. There father met Mr. Xenophon Loomis, an old neighbor and a Civil War veteran, whom he had known in Howard County. With his wife and baby daughter Loomis was living in a little shack at the junction of the Des Moines with a smaller stream called the Lizard, about a mile from Fort Dodge.

That part of the State was then settling up very rapidly and Mr. Loomis proposed that we spend the summer with them and that he and father pool their resources and break prairie together. As father had most of the equipment necessary and needed the money, he decided to do this, and we moved into the little shack with the Loomis family. Mother

was to go with the men to do the cooking, for the breaking crew boarded themselves. Father used both horses and mules. Mr. Loomis had oxen. The summer was very wet; much of the time the water followed the plow. That made the pulling easier for the animals but was rather hard on the man who held the plow. Fred rode one of the lead horses but Frank and I remained at home with Mrs. Loomis.

One Saturday there had been a very heavy rainfall and both the Des Moines and the Lizard were rising rapidly. The breaking crew arrived on the opposite side of the Lizard and found the water too deep to cross at the ford as they usually did. I well remember standing on the river bank and looking across at the party and their teams gathered on the other side. That muddy water carrying all sorts of debris looked completely hopeless to me. But a rowboat was procured and they were rowed across, the teams swimming part of the way. All sorts of strange things were coming down on the water. A young man tied a wagon box to a tree and launched it into the stream. He had a spear tied to a long slender rope with which he salvaged whatever he could that looked worth saving. Between times he bailed out the water that was constantly pouring into his improvised boat. When he got tired, he called to the men who were standing about watching the rising river to haul him in.

A branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, then known as the Dubuque and Sioux City, was in process of construction that summer and the bridge crossing the Des Moines River just above its junction with the Lizard was partially completed when the flood came. All morning men were swarming over the big timbers trying to strengthen the structure so the water would not carry it away, but toward noon an ominous cracking was heard and the men ran for their lives. All had reached safety when, with a tremendous crash, half

of the structure went out. One man had left his coat on the bridge and ran back after it as the timbers of the wrecked section went floating downstream. He retrieved the coat but just as he sprang from the bridge there was a second crash and the rest of the bridge went out. He must have needed that coat, for he took a fearful risk. For the next two weeks the weather was too wet even for breaking and mother and the men remained at home.

According to the Homestead Act of 1862 any citizen of the United States over twenty-one years of age could acquire 160 acres of land priced at \$1.25 an acres or 80 acres of land on which the government price was \$2.50 an acre if he lived on the homestead for five years and complied with other requirements. A later amendment provided that time spent in the military service of the United States was to be deducted from the five years required in ordinary cases, but the veteran still had to take up residence on his homestead and improve it. Father and Mr. Loomis decided to take up homesteads.

Father's first plan had been to take a homestead near Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, but when the breaking season was over he was influenced to change to Palo Alto County where a good many people he knew were now going. Father and Mr. Loomis went to the government land office at Fort Dodge and filed for their claims. Our new location was in Township 94 north, Range 33 west of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

The two men started across country to inspect their property, taking with them lumber for a little shanty to be built on Mr. Loomis's homestead. It took one day for them to erect the little shack, just a frame of two by fours at top and bottom, with boards running perpendicularly nailed to them, a roof sloping one way, a door, and two windows. Later a neighbor described it as a "lean-to without any-

thing to lean to." When the men returned, the wagons were again loaded and we started on the last lap of the journey to our new home in Palo Alto County. After the many rains of the summer, every pond and slough was brimming full. There were no roads, only trails. In some places, where there were not even trails, we drove by compass. We now had two teams of mules. When we approached a slough the only thing we could do was to drive in and trust to luck or Providence to get out on the other side. One night we camped only three miles from our stopping place of the night before. In five days of constant effort we drove the fifty miles.

The "shanty" looked small, indeed, standing alone in the midst of those endless miles of prairie — not a tree or shrub to relieve the monotony. Mother said she was sure we had nearly reached the end of the world and that just a few miles farther on we should come to the "jumping-off place", but we moved in and were happy to think that at last we were going to be settled.

Grass there was in plenty and the men began at once to build shelters for the stock for the winter. We still had our cow and calf, now a husky six-months-old steer. A stable was built on our homestead with a framework of timbers brought from the Des Moines River, six miles distant. The walls and roof were of the long, coarse slough grass. It made a very warm, comfortable shelter for stock and for several years no other barn was built. When these sheds had been built on both homesteads the men turned their attention to getting up hay. In a few days more they had cut and stacked enough for the months of winter.

While the hay was being put up, mother and the two boys dug the cellar for our house. At a depth of about five or six feet, as I remember it, they came upon what seemed to be wood ashes. There was much speculation as to when and

how those ashes came to be there. We had arrived in September, 1869, but it was the first of November by the time father was ready to commence work on our house. Lumber and other materials had to be hauled from Fort Dodge, a distance of some fifty miles, with no roads except the trails father and Mr. Loomis had made.

While father and Mr. Loomis were away on one of these trips, we had our first experience with a prairie fire. Mother had insisted that the men burn firebreaks before leaving, so they broke a couple of furrows a few rods apart to completely surround the buildings and the hay stacks and then burned off the grass between them. Just before noon after the men had gone, I noticed that the sunshine on the floor looked very yellow. "What makes the sunshine look so funny?", I asked. Mother looked around. "It's a prairie fire!", she exclaimed.

Soon the flames became visible. The fire was coming with racehorse speed, for the grass was long and heavy and a prairie fire always creates a strong wind. Great sheets of flame seemed to break off and go sailing through the air directly over the house and stables, but nothing inside the firebreaks was ignited and soon the danger was past. The burned-over prairie, however, was drearier than before.

A short distance from the house there was a stretch of bottom land with an outlet on the opposite side, called Beaver Creek. Muskrats had been very plentiful there and the creek was dotted with their cone-shaped houses, built of the grass stems and weeds. These made fine fuel for the approaching fire and many of these houses smouldered for hours after the fire had passed. We hoped that the muskrats had escaped, as seemed possible since they always have one entrance to their house below the water line, for muskrat hides brought about ten cents apiece.

Construction was begun on our house at once. It was on

a very pretentious scale for that locality, for it measured sixteen feet wide by eighteen feet long and was a story and a half high. Downstairs there was a living and general purpose room with a pantry and bedroom partitioned off one end. These two smaller rooms were separated by a stairway to the second floor. A door from the pantry opened into the cellar way which consisted of steps cut into the dirt wall. The cellar was used for our winter's supply of vegetables as well as for milk and butter. The upstairs was all in one room but was divided by curtains. This served as sleeping quarters for us children and for anyone else who chanced to pass by when night was approaching.

On the tenth of November, 1869, six months after leaving Howard County, we moved into our new house, although there were as yet neither doors nor windows. Father's work bench was set up in the second story where I used to enjoy watching the curling shavings as he planed the lumber for the doors and window frames. Inside, the house was lined throughout with tarred paper; and on the outside it was banked with earth a foot or two above the bottom of the walls to prevent freezing in the cellar. About four feet from the house father laid a low wall of rocks found so abundantly on the prairies and the space between this and the house was filled with earth, forming a terrace.

Towns were far apart then and everyone's home was open to any traveler. This was particularly true of our place. People drove for miles to "get to Lacey's" to spend the night. Occasionally a stranger passing through would offer to pay for his accommodation, but by far the greater number were entertained as guests. Father would put the team in the barn and give them feed. The traveler was sent to the house for his meal which mother always seemed glad to get no matter what the hour.

This house stood for about ten years before it was torn

down and replaced by one somewhat larger and much better built. The new house contained three rooms upstairs and all the rooms downstairs were larger. An additional closet under the stairs was an improvement, too. The house was very much on the same plan as the old one excepting that the stairs were partitioned off from one side of the living room and could be reached from an outside door as well as from the living room.

When we moved into our first house we had very little furniture. A couple of chairs, one Boston rocker (the best chair to rest in that has yet been made), a few dishes, and some cooking utensils were about all we had. Father built a couple of benches to eke out our supply of seats. Later more chairs were bought. Father built three bedsteads of lumber. The one for himself and mother was strung with cord which took the place of the modern springs of which we had never heard. Those for the children were supplied with slats on which "ticks" were placed. These ticks were made at home and filled with fresh clean straw to serve as mattresses. The two bedsteads upstairs were made very high to permit storage underneath them of seed corn, small tools, and even parts of harness for which there was no suitable place in the sheds. Mother had comfortable pillows and a good feather bed which her mother had given her when she was married.

When father bought our cookstove in Fort Dodge he was very careful in selecting it. He knew that a large firebox in a stove took less fuel than a small one. Also he wanted to be able to see the fire so he took a chair and sat down before the stove to see whether the fire would show. His judgment was good; that stove was the best for all purposes of any for miles around. Our fuel was wood from the timber along the Des Moines River six miles distant and father and the boys made many trips for wood during the winter that fol-

lowed. We were quite comfortable in spite of the fact that our house with its board walls lined with a single layer of building paper stood on the open prairie with no shelter of any sort.

The winter of 1869-1870 was severe; storm followed storm. There was a great deal of snow and every little breeze lifted the snow in the air. Sometimes a slight thaw would melt the snow a little, but it would freeze again during the night so a thin crust of ice was formed, but the next high wind started it blowing again.

Later in the winter, father made one of his trips to Fort Dodge for much needed supplies. As soon as his business was transacted he started on the return trip, expecting to stop at the house of a friend over night and reach home the following day. During the night a furious storm arose and when he looked out in the morning he saw that the air was full of snow. Had there been any roads they would have been obliterated. It looked like a desperate undertaking but he decided to push on. He soon learned that he had no idea as to where he was going and he concluded that it was better to leave the direction entirely to the mules. Holding the lines loose in his hands he let them go where they would.

I well remember that day. Often mother went to the window, though it was impossible to see farther than ten feet on the lee side of the house. It was like looking at a wall of snow. Once I heard her say, "Oh, if he is out in this storm he will surely perish." About two in the afternoon, as she was looking out, she saw the tips of the mules' ears emerging from the flying snow. They had brought the wagon home across miles and miles of trackless prairie directly to the house. What guided them? I still wonder.

Enough snow had sifted into the stable to make it very uncomfortable for the stock. Father, a Mr. Bernard, who was a transient guest in our home, and the two boys started

to shovel it out. The cow and the yearling were taken out and left on the sheltered side of the stable. The yearling passed around the corner of the stable out of sight of the cow but remained in the shelter of the shed. As soon as the cow missed him she started out to find him, following the course of the wind. When the men discovered that the cow was gone they tried to find her. They went as far as they dared, following her tracks until these were covered by the blowing snow. Knowing it was not safe to go farther they turned back. Next day they started out again and found the cow just barely alive in a drift of snow, but she lived only a few minutes. The two best mules and a horse father had acquired had died from a contagious disease, so our small amount of stock was reduced by more than half. For years afterward this blizzard was referred to as "the March storm". Fortunately it was the last bad storm of that winter.

During these early years, as I have said, wood was our only fuel and had to be cut and hauled from the Des Moines River six miles away. Sometimes we were very short of fuel indeed. One evening mother was trying to get supper with so little fuel that it seemed impossible. Retta Richards, the teacher who was boarding with us, brought in some hay twisted into bundles about the size of a stick of stove wood and in a few minutes the fire was burning merrily and we soon had supper on the table.

This was our first experience in burning hay, but it became our standby for fuel for the next three years. We learned that the tall, tough slough grass made the best fuel and many homesteaders put up that kind for the winter's supply. We were fortunate in having a cookstove with a large firebox so we got along nicely with it. Those with stoves having small fireboxes did not succeed so well. In the coldest weather a big armful of hay was brought into

the house and there converted into bundles. The floor was pretty well littered in the process but it was "clean dirt" and was easily swept up with a broom.

About this time someone invented a cookstove for burning hay. This stove had a very large firebox into which the hay was stuffed. It was then held down by a weight which could be raised or lowered as necessary, forcing the hay to burn slowly with a steady flame. I believe these stoves were rather successful though we never tried one. In homes where these stoves were used there was always a pile of hay in one corner of the room which made a very comfortable lounging place for the boys of the family in the long winter evenings.

Mother had brought seeds which she had raised in Howard County. We children were all very much interested and to stimulate our industry and ambition, mother measured off a little patch of ground for each of us and told us we could raise anything we wanted in our individual gardens. One day mother, Frank, and I went to the edge of our farm and planted a row of sunflowers. Mother said they would shut of the view and relieve the monotony a little.

The planting of trees was begun early that first spring (1870). We took slips or cuttings from growing trees and stuck them in the ground, leaving a few buds at the tip to form leaves. They soon formed roots and in a few weeks the little switches began to grow. About the only trees available were willows and Lombardy poplars. Later we gathered maple seeds and planted them. The willows were used for hedges at the boundaries of the farms. Wild gooseberry and currant bushes and wild plum and crab trees were brought from the river banks and set out.

Once I complained to mother that those trees would never be like the trees I had been accustomed to in our home in Howard County. "But these will be all in nice straight

rows'', she told me. But those sedate, straight rows of trees did not look right to me; they were too artificial. Though many years have passed and I have seen many beautiful parks planned and completed by the hand of man, I still think natural planting cannot be improved upon.

That first fall we took pails, sacks, tubs, everything that would answer the purpose and went to the river to gather wild grapes and plums. We took lunch along and made a picnic of it. Sometimes several neighbors' families went together and made the trip a real affair. The fruit was dried, canned, or preserved to add to our winter's supplies. For several years the settlers depended on gathering the wild fruits. Even though grapes, plums, and crabapples grew well along the river where they were protected by natural timber, many of the early settlers declared that fruit could never be raised in that locality. Later we were to learn that all fruits suited to that latitude would do well. We planted our orchard the second season on a sunny slope where it was protected from the cold winds by the willow hedges but it was many years before we had fruit from it.

Some of the wild plants were also used for food. Occasionally sheep sorrel was used for pies until rhubarb was grown. Lamb's quarter, dandelion, and red-root were used for greens.

Wild game, particularly wild fowl, was very plentiful. Whenever we went anywhere in the big lumber wagon the gun was taken along. Many meals were rounded out with the game brought in. The first winter in Palo Alto County more than forty wild ducks in addition to wild geese, brants, cranes, prairie chickens, and other wild fowl fell victims to our need for fresh meat. The whole country was a perfect wild birds' paradise and equally good hunting. After the ground was broken and crops put in the wild game used to feed on the ripening grain and corn. Some of the men and

boys, my brothers among them, used to set traps to catch them.

As winter came on we would see the birds going south where food was more plentiful and the weather warmer. I remember the flocks of geese, flying in wedge formation, always led by an old gander who from time to time let out a honk to learn if all was well with the flock. An answering honk answered his query. Some of the flocks of blackbirds were so long that both the beginning and the end were hidden in the distance.

Sometimes birds were only slightly injured and we tried to tame them, but with little success. Once, however, we did succeed in hatching some wild duck eggs under a hen. The three little ducks became very tame, following us around and eating from our hands. But one day in the fall when wild game was migrating they must have heard "the call of the wild" and joined a flock going south; we could not find them and they were never seen again.

Planting and sowing in those early days were done in very primitive ways. When the sod had been broken the farmer, or his wife, followed a furrow and cut through the turned sod with an axe. The corn was dropped in and the ground pressed down by stepping on the hill. One of our neighbors had a hand planter which he had made. Two sharpened blades at the bottom were plunged into the turned sod and the corn dropped in at the same time. A little later father bought a couple of corn planters that were also carried by hand.

Small grain was sowed by hand. The farmer carried a sack suspended from a strap which passed over the right shoulder and under the left arm. As he walked across the field he scooped up handfuls of grain and scattered it before him with a swinging motion of the right arm. The birds, which were numerous, followed, picking up their

share. For this reason the harrow followed as quickly as possible; then came the roller to crush the clods of soil and pack it around the seed.

Among the pests with which the farmer had to contend were hordes of ground squirrels, also called gophers, which followed the rows of newly planted corn and dug it up for their own food. The prairie was spotted with mounds of soft earth where they had burrowed. They always had two entrances to their burrows, so if they were molested from one entrance they immediately departed through the other. The farmers set traps or placed poisoned corn where it might prove a temptation for them and boys and men sometimes poured water into the holes to bring the gophers out. In spite of all this, they multiplied fast enough to be a menace to the crops. Their color was protective, too. When they came out of their holes to reconnoiter, sitting on their haunches, their noses pointing upward, their elbows close to their sides, they looked like a piece of cornstalk.

Blackbirds were considered one of the worst pests, but it was proven later that they really lived principally on worms which would have destroyed the corn. A blackbird would pull up a blade of corn, eat the wireworm at its root, and leave the corn. Left alone, the worm would have destroyed the whole hill of corn and leave a multitude of descendants to take future crops. The farmers did not know they were making war on their best friends when they destroyed the birds. Mother used to interpret the blackbird's song something like this: "Plant corn, plant corn, plant corn and I'll pull it up, pull it up, pull it up, and eat it, and eat it, and eat it. Good, good, good, good, good!" As she said it, it very much resembled the blackbird's song.

When the grain was ripe it was cut with a "cradle" which consisted of a scythe with a sort of rack attached. The forward swing of the cradle caused the grain to fall

into the rack as it was cut and with the backward swing it was dumped out in a nice, neat pile, if the cradler was sufficiently skillful. A man followed to bind the grain into bundles, making a band from a handful of grain. The bundles were then placed upright forming the shocks.

The first harvesting machine I remember was like a mower with a platform attached to the sickle-bar where the grain fell as it was cut. A man stood on this platform with a long handled rake and raked the grain off onto the ground as fast as enough was cut for a bundle. The machine was drawn by horses so a second man was needed to drive the team. More workers followed to bind the grain into bundles. The machine passed around the field and the circumference was divided into sections, each man binding in a certain section.

The next harvester that I remember was one that had a revolving reel, one of the arms of the reel carrying a rake which pushed the grain from the table where it fell when cut. Then came the Marsh harvester. This machine carried the grain on a revolving belt to the table where two men stood to bind it as it came over. This machine met with some opposition from people who thought men would be thrown out of employment thereby, but the machines were used and so far as anyone could see, there was still plenty of work for all. The next step in harvesters was the self-binder. On this machine there was a big needle which was threaded with coarse twine. The needle separated the grain for the bundle, wrapped the twine around it, tied it, and the bundle was then automatically kicked off. Two more men were supposedly out of employment, but there was always plenty of work for everyone to do.

Neighbors exchanged work during harvesting and threshing. Often it was made the occasion of a big dinner, the farmers' wives going along to help with the cooking. On

the whole those neighborhood gatherings were very enjoyable affairs. They gave the farmer's wife an opportunity to exchange ideas with her neighbors, gave her a change of surroundings and scenes and an opportunity to form life-long friendships. When life consisted of work and work and more work, every day in the week, even a slight change was welcome.

The corn was gathered by hand. A wagon was driven through the field following a row of corn and crushing the stalks down as it went. That was called the "down row" and it was the duty of the boy, if there was one, to pick the corn from that row, since he didn't have to stoop so far as a man did to reach the corn. The only device to reduce the amount of labor was the husking peg, a bluntly pointed metal piece held in place by a strap around the middle finger. Used together with the thumb it tore the husks apart. Some of the husks were gathered up and braided into mats for the men to clean mud from their boots outside the door. Sometimes the soft inner husks were used in the ticks which took the place of the present-day mattresses. Very good beds they made, too.

In the old days the farmer and his wife arose at four in the morning and several hours were spent in taking care of the stock and milking the cows. Then came breakfast and the day's work in the field for the men and, sometimes, for the women, too. The children had their work to do as soon as it was possible for them to work. Brother Fred took a man's place from the time he was ten years old and Frank followed suit though he did have a little better chance for schooling since he attended a few spring terms.

The summer of 1874 brought the first visit we had from the grasshoppers. One day during the afternoon recess at school, we remarked on how many grasshoppers there were. It was the beginning of a scourge that lasted intermittently

for several years. In the fall the grasshoppers deposited their eggs in holes which they bored in the ground. In many places the ground was thickly perforated with holes a little smaller than a lead pencil, each one containing many tiny eggs. There was a warm spell late one fall and the eggs began to hatch. People rejoiced, thinking that the winter would kill the grasshoppers. One of the neighbor boys caught several grasshoppers and shut them up in a bottle which he put out of doors during a freezing night. In the morning the grasshoppers were apparently frozen and rattled like grains of sand when the bottle was shaken, but when they thawed out they hopped about as lively as ever. One ingenious American invented a machine which could be run over the field to scare them up and catch them, much as one catches the clipped grass behind a lawnmower. They were then burned and in this way some of them were destroyed, but the full-grown ones came in veritable clouds that destroyed the crops.

Two years later the grasshoppers came again. They had come to within a few miles of us when a strong south wind halted them for a time. Since the grain was headed out and the corn in silk, the farmers waited in great anxiety, knowing well that the wind would probably change within a few days. For just a week the 'hoppers were held back. Then on Sunday a north wind brought them to us. The next morning we saw Fred looking across at the cornfield. I can see that field now, so green and thrifty looking. "That field is not worth a dollar", he said. It was true; the 'hoppers had cut the silk from the undeveloped ears and that fall we had a fine crop of cobs. They had also cut off the heads of the grain so all we had was straw.

We had eight shoats to get through that winter in some way. Since there was no feed, the hogs were turned out to shift for themselves. In the haystacks they found some dry

weeds which they chewed and seemed to get some nourishment. Four had vitality enough to get through till spring; the other four died of starvation and cold. In the spring as soon as vegetation started and the fields were being cultivated the survivors were shut up and it became my duty to pull weeds for them. In this way they were kept alive until there was corn for them again.

When mother's brother, John, thought it was best to buy out the other heirs to grandfather's little farm in Illinois, father went back and bargained with him for \$230 as mother's share. Mother took that money and put it into milch cows. From that time for several years she made butter for market. Butter was packed in one hundred pound firkins or smaller tubs and kept in the cellar until fall when it was hauled to Algona, the nearest market, thirty miles away, a three-day trip. Usually the money was used for winter clothing and supplies. Hogs were acquired to use the surplus milk and thus stock-raising became our principal farming industry. My parents planned to keep enough stock to use up the grain which the farm produced.

At that time people turned the stock out on the unfenced prairies, only watching them out of their own fields, so there was no lack of pasturage. Later a herd law was passed requiring owners to keep their stock off other people's property. Then the farmers combined and hired a herd boy jointly, each man paying him according to the number of head of stock he had in the herd. Cattle were then herded on public land or on uncultivated land owned by speculators.

Wheat was raised for flour for the family. It was taken thirty or forty miles to a mill, usually to Sioux Rapids. Corn was ground at the same place. Grain was for feeding rather than a cash crop as there was generally more money in stock. The principal crops were corn, oats, and some bar-

ley. As a general thing money from a farm was put into machinery which, in many cases, was left to rust out right where it had been used last.

During those early days most clothing was made at home and by hand. There were very few sewing machines in that locality. In fact, the first few years there was none in our neighborhood. Aunt Harriet Tressler obtained the agency for the Florence machine and sold a few and also got one for herself. At that time a clean calico dress was plenty good enough for church or Sunday school and a gingham or calico sunbonnet frequently took the place of a hat. I once heard a young lady remark that her mother had spent sixteen dollars on her one Saturday. That was worth boasting about.

Everyday wear for men usually consisted of a pair of overalls and a "wamus" or "roundabout". This was a short jacket gathered into a belt at the bottom and finished at the neck with a close fitting straight or turn-over collar. The sleeves were gathered into a cuff which buttoned tightly around the wrist. When these garments or any everyday clothing were bought ready-made the sewing was usually so poorly done that it must be done over at home.

One of the neighbors, whose wife was a victim of tuberculosis, thought to make the work easier for her and bought a pair of ready-made overalls. Next morning when he put them on and started to build the fire, he stooped over and the new overalls began to rip in the seams. The next day mother went to see this neighbor and found her sitting up in bed sewing on the overalls and wishing her thoughtful husband had bought the goods and let her make them outright.

The material used in overalls was the same as that used in grain sacks. Each farmer marked his grain sacks with his name stencilled in large letters to identify them when

they were borrowed. The whole neighborhood was amused when the waggish Schuyler Cummins appeared one day in a pair of overalls with A. V. Lacey printed on one hip and Philo Sanford on the other.

Wreaths of hair flowers, worsted flowers, and even seeds were made by the girls and women who had a taste for that sort of work. Mother had a very beautiful wreath made of different kinds of seeds, which she bought from the woman who made it. The frame for the wreath was covered with pine cones with a border at the inner edge of large kernels of corn and an outer edge of peach stones. Hair flower wreaths were made from the hair of the members of the family and of friends. I made one of these once on which I spent many hours that might better have been spent in improving my mind, but one had to have some recreation and there were no movies to attend!

Among the industries practiced at home in the early days was the making of straw hats. Not every one knew how to do this but mother was one who did. Before the first crops were raised hats were made from blue joint, a wild grass which then grew rather tall on the uplands and had a stem very much like that of wheat. It was stiff and hard to work with and as soon as possible wheat or oat straw was used. The straw was first plaited, four or more strands together, then sewn into shape. The hats were fitted to the heads as they were sewn, so the boys had to come into the house often to try them on. The hat was begun at the center of the crown, the braid sewed around and around until the required size was reached. Then it was turned by drawing the braid tighter and the crown was continued until the required height was reached. It was then turned again by sewing the braid more loosely and the brim was formed.

Knitting, which was done by most of the women, was usually confined to the necessities — socks, stockings, mit-

tens, mufflers, and wristlets. A few did fancy knitting, such as lace edgings, chair tidies, and even bedspreads. These bedspreads were usually made from carpet warp, though I have seen a few that were made from the finer cottons. Crocheting was more popular for the tidies and laces, for it could be done more rapidly. Ordinary sewing thread was often used, usually in white. Crocheted edgings were used on underwear, pillow slips, aprons, and especially on children's clothes.

The day of the spinning wheel had about passed at that time, though I have seen a few women spinning. The yarn for knitted hosiery and mittens was bought at the stores. Many knit their cotton stockings also. Some of these were very elaborate, being knit in "featherwork", "shellwork", or "oak leaf" patterns. When we wore those stockings showing the pattern which was continued over the instep, we thought we were very much dressed up.

Frequently enough, while the men were learning to farm, the women and children actually supported the families. They raised chickens and eggs for the table, raised the vegetables and fruits, and made butter to sell in exchange for things not produced at home. The women were not unaware of this fact and were quite capable of scoring a point on occasion when masculine attitudes became too bumptious. One of the farmers sold his hogs for what he considered a very good price. He came home and told of the deal with a great show of self-satisfaction. With a swagger he picked up the pail to carry the feed out to the pigs. His wife stopped him right there. "You don't need to feed those pigs tonight. I've done it every time so far. They are to be fed just once more and I'm going to do it."

A chronicle of my recollections of those early days would be incomplete without some mention of the griefs and disappointments. The first death in the community was that of

one of the Bernard family, a "blue baby" that lived to be over a year old. Father made the casket and the neighbors formed a procession and carried the little body out for burial on the farm.

Within three years after one of the families located in our neighborhood, a shocking tragedy occurred in their family. Two brothers of about fourteen and sixteen were out in the cornfield at work. They got into a dispute and the older boy struck his brother with a cornstalk. The younger boy ran to the wagon, picked up the gun brought along to shoot game, and shot his brother in the back of the head, killing him instantly.

But life had a lighter side. Evenings and rainy days we sometimes had a game of checkers at home. There were a few families in the neighborhood who played cards but this was frowned upon by my mother. Father would say, "Come, let's have a game of checkers. I think you can beat me this time." That was just what happened. Then perhaps he would say, "Now I think I am going to beat you." And it turned out that way. Father was an expert but he had little chance to really enjoy the game at home for none of us ever learned to be more than indifferent players. We also played "Authors" and some kind of history game which was fun for those who were good in history.

Father had a strong, true, and melodious voice and quite often he sat before the fire in the evening and sang for his own amusement. If company came, different ones would contribute to the entertainment by singing. Stephen C. Foster's songs were popular then. Those I best remember hearing are: "Nellie Was a Lady", "Old Folks at Home", "My Old Kentucky Home", "Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground", and "Oh Susanna". "Dixie" was sung a great deal as were "The Red River Valley" and "The Little Mo-hee". Hymns that everybody knew were sung by the whole

group. I also remember hearing my father sing, "I've Told Thee How Fair the Roses Are", "The Dying Californian", "The Soldier of the Rhine", and a great many war songs and comic songs of which he knew an inexhaustible number.

At that time doctors were few and far between. Every family had a "doctor book" which advised a treatment for every ill and injury to man and beast. Many wild plants were used as medicines, most of them steeped and drunk as tea. Among these were "Culver's root" taken "for the liver". The dandelion, both as extract and as wine, was used for the same purpose. Tonics were made from the butterfly weed, sweet flag root, sassafras bark, and boneset. Of course sulphur and molasses were taken nearly every spring. For colds, pennyroyal, prairie balm, and horse mint were popular remedies. Mullen was used externally for pleurisy. Mullen seeds were among those mother had brought with her from Howard County. Smartweed was used externally for boils. Cubeb berries were smoked for catarrh. Castile soap was used to cleanse wounds on stock as well as for hand and shaving soap. Dry baking soda was also applied to barbed wire cuts on the stock.

Mother's father had been a doctor and she had learned a great deal about caring for the sick. Within two years the whole neighborhood had come to depend on her and she was called upon in cases of sickness for more than thirty years. In the cases of childbirth the neighbors would just drive by and tell her when they wanted her, always taking it for granted that she would be there—and she always was. There was no charge; such service was merely one part of being a good neighbor. But her assistance was not unappreciated. I have a silver cream ladle which was given her by Mrs. Alexander, a Scotch woman who lived near Ayrshire, Iowa, and on one occasion a neighbor gave her a calico dress.

During the second winter in Palo Alto County (1870-1871), father and mother began to think of school for the children. There were enough children in the neighborhood to draw public money. In the spring father and Mr. Sanford led in organizing the school township, an area six miles square. There was no building but it was decided to use the upper half story of our house for school purposes. A Mrs. Wilson, a widow, was chosen as the teacher. With her came her little boy and a crippled sister. They brought provisions and lived in our house. Teacher and pupils entered and passed through the living room and climbed the steep stairs to the upper room where there were already two beds besides anything that needed storage space. Father made a long bench and desk for the pupils and space was made at one side of the room under the sloping roof. The regular attendants were the three Bernard children, Cousin Kate, my two brothers (when not busy in the fields), and myself. Fred, oftener than Frank, had to be at work, but I was seldom asked, or permitted, to lose a day of school. It was hard for mother to have the children trooping through her living room, which was also dining room and kitchen, eight times a day, for we had recess both forenoon and afternoon as well as the noon hour. But she was willing to put up with any inconvenience for the sake of her children.

The following winter it was decided that school should be conducted in the Sanford home. Like us, the Sanfords were of the very few who had an upstairs room. Cousin Kate, Fred, Frank, and I were to take our provisions and bedding and stay there during the five school days, returning home for the weekends. The Sanfords had a large family of their own and we found this plan very uncomfortable in winter. Before long mother decided to teach us herself and we studied at home through the long winter evenings, sometimes by the light of the fire from the cookstove.

The next autumn we had another teacher, Maggie Martin, one of a family of teachers who devoted their summers and winters to teaching the children of the early settlers. Maggie conducted the second school which was held at our house. The following spring a little schoolhouse was erected and we had the same teacher again. We now had a few "real school desks" and a chair for the teacher in addition to the old desk and bench we had used before. The teacher "boarded around".

The schoolhouse was used for meetings of the township officers and whenever one of those meetings was to be held we had a holiday from school. Nearly all the men attending those meetings chewed tobacco and few of them considered it a duty to avoid bringing dirt into the house. Maggie said she believed the men would be more careful if they found the room immaculate when they came. She asked for volunteers among the girls to remain after school to help her clean the room. I was one of the volunteers. We scrubbed the floor, cleaned the one panel of blackboard, and draped wild morning glory over the box stove. We took off the lid to use the hole as a vase which we filled with wild sweet William, wild roses, and other prairie flowers. The result justified Maggie's judgment and we found the schoolhouse as clean as it could very well be after such a meeting.

At the close of this term of school the little schoolhouse was hauled away to another district and we were again without a building for six months. The following spring (1874), school was again conducted in our house. Our teacher this time was Retta Richards, another of the well-known pioneer teachers. Retta boarded with us and thus avoided the exposure some of those early teachers were obliged to endure. I presume she paid a dollar or a dollar and a half a week, though I do not remember. Even in summer weather there was much danger of a soaking in a

sudden shower and in the morning the long grass which met over the narrow road was always drenched with dew. It was impossible to walk abroad before ten in the morning and escape wet feet. Dresses were long and skirts were almost invariably wet to the knees. Some cases of tuberculosis were thought to be traced to colds contracted while walking to the schoolhouse through those heavy dews.

During the summer of 1874 our first permanent schoolhouse was built. The interior was a simple oblong, wainscotted about three feet above the floor and plastered above that and overhead. The woodwork was finished in oak graining. The painter's idea of a good job was to imitate as many knots and imperfections in the wood as he could find room for. It was our school, much the best we had ever had, and we were very proud of it.

A partition near one end formed an entrance hall where we left our wraps and lunches. During recess and noon hour, when the weather was too cold to go outside, we used to play there. One of the favorite games was "Blind Man's Buff". There was a row of shelves at each end of the hall and one of the boys, Willie Young, a little, wiry fellow, used to go up those shelves like a monkey. He would then stand on the top shelf dancing and singing while the "blind man" sought him frantically. Another game was "Hot Buttered Blue Beans", also known as "Hide the Thimble".

On Friday afternoons following the recess there was usually a program of recitations and a spelling match to close the day. As the last "scholar" started for his seat someone struck up the song "I Shall Never Learn to Spell". Everybody joined in the singing, which started with the following stanza:

Oh, dear! Oh, dear! I shall never learn to spell;
I shall always be a dunce, I know very well.
For the letters get mixed up in such a queer way
That I never can tell what they mean to say.

In those days there was little or no insubordination in our school. Most of the year meant drudgery on the farms, and school was a relief from hard work. We were looking forward to the time when we could leave the farm and do something else, preferably in a town or city, so there was a good deal of speculation the first day of school as to how much help the teacher was likely to be as a stepping-stone to our ambition.

The last day of school there was always a sort of picnic. There was little or no studying or recitations and in the afternoon many of the parents came in and there were declamations and dialogues and sometimes an essay or two. The teacher read a report of the attendance, the work, and, sometimes, the shortcomings of some whose work had not been up to the mark, for there were some of those, too. Then the teacher gave each pupil a picture card labeled "Reward of Merit". Usually there were prizes for the ones who had done the best work in certain branches. Some teachers gave an "Exhibition" at the close of the term. In one of the dialogues I was Miss Pickspiders, an old maid. In another I took the part of the Irish servant girl. As I look back now I can see that considerable talent was displayed in the acting, although we had never seen any plays and our stage properties consisted of sheets for curtains and furniture borrowed from the neighbors. Our own scanty wardrobes or borrowed clothes were the costumes.

The following paragraph taken from a report which Brother Fred made while he was superintendent of the North Des Moines schools still is, perhaps, a fair appraisal of the schools of our youth.

Instruction was almost wholly individual. Whenever a pupil chose to present himself for admission in the schools, no matter what time in the year, he was received. His studies were determined by the books he brought. . . . If he had been through

Webster's "blue-back" speller twice and had finished the last column of the tenth page of the third round, the first column of the eleventh page would naturally be the first lesson his new teacher would give him. If a class already formed had just reached that page, he was put into that class. Otherwise he would probably form a new class. It was thus by no means uncommon to see a dozen classes in the same room studying from the same book, but at a dozen stages of advancement in it.

Such were the schools of our forefathers, the merits of which we frequently hear extolled. They produced many strong men. For the favored ones the advantages of such a school were manifest. But the majority made but little progress, either through sheer neglect of the teacher or because, with impartial treatment, the multiplicity of classes made it impossible for the teacher to give sufficient time to any class to enable his pupils to accomplish anything of real value. . . . Instruction was essentially a matter of memorizing textbooks verbatim.³

Memory was, indeed, the cornerstone of much of this education. Physiology, for example, was introduced in our school in 1874 and we learned to recite the name of every bone and muscle in the body. We knew little of the great world and its problems and our highest ambition was to qualify as teachers.

Parents were interested in giving their children an education, but they had little time to give to details. One of the early teachers in Palo Alto County recalls the following parody on "Johnny Stays Long at the Fair":

Parents Don't Visit the Schools

Oh, dear! what can the matter be?

Oh, dear! what can the matter be?

Oh, dear! what can the matter be?

Parents don't visit the schools.

They care for their houses, they care for their dollars,

They care for their laces and ribbons and collars,

³ Fred A. Lacey's *Public Schools of North Des Moines, Iowa* (Talbott-Koch Printing Co., 1898), pp. 5, 6.

But little we think they care for their scholars.
Now, why don't they visit the schools?⁴

After our school became established there were regularly two terms in the year. The summer term began about the first of June and lasted from three to six months, according to local circumstances. The winter term began about the first of December and lasted three months, that being the time between the last of the corn-picking and the first of the spring plowing.

Mother's family were Baptists, in keeping with their Rhode Island origin. Grandfather's brother, Stutely Carr, was a Baptist clergyman at Greenfield Center, New York, and later at Springfield, Pennsylvania. Father's family belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mother was very religious. The letters exchanged between her and her sister usually contained something which revealed religious feeling as a family spirit. A customary closing I remember was, "Yours in the Lord". There were other such phrases. Among mother's mementoes of her brother, Hiram, was a poem entitled, "Degenerate Man", which was a comment on the story of Cain and Abel in verse. Mother read the Bible to her own family a great deal. One custom which she carried on from her father's practice was to have each member of the family circle open the Bible at random on New Year's morning and read aloud the chapter to which he chanced to turn. There was supposed to be some special guidance for the reader to follow in the new year.

In the Protestant communities all the younger people who had no place to go and wanted something to do attended prayer meetings with their elders. The first prayer meeting I can remember was held at the Sanford's at their

⁴ The words of this song were learned from Jerry L. Martin, one of the early teachers of Palo Alto County. He was elected county superintendent of Palo Alto County in 1869, and was one of the two instructors at the first normal institute held at Emmetsburg in October, 1876.

invitation. There had been no religious services of any sort and I asked what a prayer meeting was. Mother explained that it was a gathering where everybody who wished to do so could take part by offering a prayer, making a talk, or singing a song as the spirit moved. When the question of attending this prayer meeting came up, at first father said we would not go. But when he went to the barn to do the chores mother followed him. When she came back she announced that we were going. "I knew I could persuade him" was all the explanation she gave. Later, the New Year was begun by a week of prayer meetings, the families gathering in a different house each day. For the rest of the year such meetings came to be held every Thursday evening.

Great Oak Township bordered ours, Rush Lake, on the north. It was settled almost entirely by Irish Catholic families while the eastern part of Rush Lake and the western part of Ellington, the township to the east of us, was settled by "Dutch" (German) Catholics. Not infrequently people from these settlements attended the prayer meetings and other services of the Protestants, and occasionally the Protestants attended the Catholic services. On one such occasion a farmer who had driven a long way to attend a service fell asleep and snored loudly enough to be heard all over the room. Father Smith stopped in the midst of his sermon to say, "If that is a Protestant, wake him up gently, but if he is a Catholic, cast him out!"

There were no church buildings in the vicinity at that time except the Catholic church in Emmetsburg. A Baptist congregation was organized at our house on May 23, 1873, and the charter members included father and mother and twenty other persons. Religious services were held in a schoolhouse, the Methodists and Baptists using it on alternate Sundays. It was several years after Curlew was es-

tablished before there was a "meeting house" as my mother called it.

The following event did not take place until after the close of the period I am describing in these notes, but it illustrates so perfectly the local attitudes as I recall them that it really belongs in the story. The first denomination to erect a building in the community was the Freewill Baptist. Later the Methodists put up a building, too. One of the neighbors, whose wife was a member of the Baptist Church, told the Methodists that if they would build their church ten feet higher than the Baptist church he would donate twenty-five dollars to their building fund. He was not a Methodist, but he did not want his wife to belong to any church. The Methodists built their steeple the stipulated ten feet higher than the Baptists' spire and collected the twenty-five dollars, but later that same summer that tall steeple was struck by lightning; people drew their own conclusions.

Probably through the connections of Elder Kettlewell of the Freewill Baptist Church, a library was donated to the Sunday school by a more prosperous church. Those books were a boon to us as to many others, for books were very rare. Novel reading was strictly forbidden in most of the families. I have since wondered where the line was drawn between those library books and the forbidden novels. One library book, which we all read, was *Claude Duval*, the story of the noted English highwayman and about as sensational as anything could be. But reading was scarce and we read everything we could get our hands on. Existence for us was pretty drab and I cannot see that a little excitement, even a stimulating book, harmed us at all.

Possibly as an outgrowth of the interest in this first small collection of books the time came when the people of the township decided that a public library would be a fine thing

to have and some of the public money was set aside for that purpose. Aunt Harriet Tressler, father's sister, was a very intelligent woman and had good taste in literature, so she was chosen one of the committee to select the books. One of the good church members, Isaac Perry, objected strenuously to any novels, but Aunt Harriet used a little wholesome ridicule. She said she expected to find him behind the door reading novels himself.

It was from this library that I obtained the first of Charles Dickens' books that I ever read, *Little Dorrit* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Some of the books were instructive, one of which, *Sketches of Creation*, I read with a great deal of interest. As the name indicates, it dealt with our earth, its origin, the changes through which it has passed, and its final occupation by man. Some of the books were historical and some were scientific. One of the most amusing of the books was a collection of stories by Porte Crayon (David Hunter Strother). The book included the story of a trip through Mammoth Cave and other interesting places.

Elder Kettlewell served the church without any stipulated salary but was paid by "donations" and an occasional contribution of money. The donation parties were held in the winter. An officer of the church would announce at a regular church service the time and place of the gathering. It was understood that everybody was to come. Some people came as far as ten miles. All brought pies, cakes, bread, cold meats, pickles, butter, cream — whatever they had or could make for a feast. For their donation to the preacher they brought sacks of grain and potatoes and whatever else they could spare from their farms. The older people and the small children came in the afternoon and had supper together. Usually a price of twenty-five cents was charged for the supper. The young people sometimes came later in the evening. A devoted young man might

drive six miles to get his girl and then drive to the appointed place. Occasionally two or three boys would pick up a party of young people to come together in a bobsled.

The time was spent by the young people, particularly, with romping games such as "Volunteer" or "Weevily Wheat". "Volunteer" was the grand right and left figure of the square dance. The players stood in opposite rows facing each other instead of forming in sets as in the cotillion or quadrille. In this way all could take part. "Weevily Wheat" was sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle". It was similar to "Volunteer" but had more changes. One stanza ran as follows:

I will have no weevily wheat;
I will have no barley;
I must have the best of wheat
To make a cake for Charley.

Dancing was frowned upon by the religious members of the community but these play party games were approved by the faithful, though, perhaps, with the tongue in the cheek. Many and heated were the debates as to which was worse, dancing or the "kissing" games that were so often indulged in. There were also the old-fashioned games like "Drop the Handkerchief", "Post Office", "Needle's Eye", and others, as well as charades, magic music, and a few calling for mental gymnastics.

Sometimes there was a "fish pond" or grab bag to which each member was supposed to contribute. Then the young people "fished" or "grabbed" at five cents a chance. They all hoped to get something worthwhile but not many of them ever did. Sometimes the articles were merely amusing and sometimes really very funny. It was all good entertainment for both old and young.

The first literary society or lyceum was organized when I was about eleven. The members were all farmers but some

had been educated for the professions and were rather well informed. There was always a debate in which most of the members took part. The president of the lyceum announced the subject of the debate and the leaders of the opposing teams a week in advance. Each leader chose the others for his team. Everybody present was supposed to be on one or the other team.

One or two members edited a lyceum paper which purported to give the news and usually did give something witty or otherwise regarding each one of the members. Sometimes someone contributed a series of alphabetical rhymes, using the names of the members with more or less realism. But the jokes were always good natured and usually were understood that way. One or two members would be appointed to write essays and others recited selections from poets or prose writers. One essay by Schuyler Cummings, which he called "A Chapter in Chronicles", was written in the style of the Book of Chronicles and was a humorous account of a fight which occurred at a certain Fourth of July celebration held near Rush Lake. Brother Fred wrote a similar paper recounting an actual transaction by which our county relinquished all of the so-called swamp lands to one person for no consideration that anyone could discover.

In the winter of 1879 Fred organized a debating society. Most of the farmers, old and young, joined. The temperance question, the evil effects of tight lacing, which was common at the time, and many other questions of greater or less importance were discussed. A glee club provided music, and essays and recitations made up the usual program. For many years the debating societies were a feature of the winter months. Schuyler Cummings was one of the prominent debaters. He had been educated to be a lawyer but in some unexplained way he had drifted to an Iowa home-

stead. On the rostrum he was perfectly at ease, but on the farm he was the worst misfit imaginable.

The spelling school was a form of recreation as well as education. One school district would invite another to a spelling contest. Parents and children from both schools attended and took part. These matches were held occasionally by about all the schools, particularly in the winter term. One leader from each school was chosen. These took their places in the two corners of the room nearest the teacher's desk. They chose the "scholars" they wished to have on their respective teams. Each tried to select the best spellers. The words were pronounced by one of the teachers, passing across from one side to the other. When a word was missed the one missing it immediately sat down and was out of the running until another match was on. The one standing up the longest was highly honored, though his school shared the honors. When all had been spelled down a short recess of from fifteen minutes to half an hour was given. Then another match followed. If the same school won both matches that school was particularly hilarious.

Among the old settlers in Palo Alto County was a man named Williams who had a very good musical education, as had his wife also. Both were fine singers and Mrs. Williams played the organ very well. They thought the young people should have some education in music. Mr. Williams made it known that if the young people would meet with him at the schoolhouse in his school district every Sunday afternoon through the summer he would instruct them in vocal music free of charge. My brothers and I, as well as quite a number of the younger people, took advantage of the offer. That was my first music instruction.

The following winter Mr. Williams organized several classes, one in the Rush Lake School, one in the Center School, and a third in Silver Lake School. He announced

that any member of one class would be welcomed at any of the others. Emmet Barringer, the teacher of our school, boarded with us and was a member of the class at the Center School. He sang tenor, Frank sang bass, and I soprano. We three used to practice at home and these evenings are among my most pleasant recollections. Some weeks we attended all three singing schools. We all enjoyed singing and the long rides in wagons or sleighs were no small inducement to our regular attendance. We had a home-made sleigh with two seats which we used when the crowd was not too large.

Two years later several of the neighbors, our family among them, bought organs and instrumental music was added to our accomplishments. Frank and I wished to become real musicians but teachers were few and far between and opportunities for practice not much better. A little music for my own pleasure and the entertainment of intimate friends was as far as I ever went.

It must have been about the year 1873 that the first teachers' institute was held in Emmetsburg for one week. The conductor was Carrie Bassett, one of the leading educators in the State at that time. Fred, though only fifteen, attended to review the subjects in which he expected to be examined for a teacher's certificate. It was one of the big events of his life and was talked about for months afterward. Classes were supposed to be conducted along the lines of a model school. Topics of interest to educators were discussed, such as the best textbooks to use and the best methods of teaching them. From that time the teachers' institute was a regular event in the fall.

A few years later, at the age of fourteen, I was privileged to attend. This time there was a four weeks' course in teaching. Letty Kettlewell, Florence Bernard, and I shared a room with kitchen privileges for which we paid a dollar a

week. We brought our supplies from home and prepared our own meals. I had a new calico dress and a supply of white aprons to last the month. This was the first time I had been away from home for so long and after two weeks mother came to see me. She thought my dress was getting soiled so she loaned me hers and wore mine home. Most of the other girls attending the institute were earning money and could dress better than I. However the lack of fine raiment did not detract from the pleasure and profit of the experience. New subjects were being introduced, one of which was drawing. It was here that I received my first lessons and though I never became proficient, it was encouraging to know that I had a certain amount of ability.

On May 1, 1877, Fred⁵ and I began our careers as teachers. I was past fifteen at the time and Fred past eighteen. He taught the "home school" and I a school about eight miles distant, in the township of Ellington. In his first school Fred must have enrolled about a dozen pupils. When he was over seventy he said he could remember how the fields looked as he walked home from school one day. As he looked at the farmsteads he began to wonder why the boys and girls from these homes should learn so much that was unconnected with their present lives or the most obvious future for most of them. It was then and there that he began pioneering in education. When he was superintendent of schools for Page County he put into the course of study "object lessons" in selecting, saving, and cultivating seed. A large correspondence developed and educators came from all over to observe this innovation.

My father had depended on the coming of the railroad to increase the value of his land and its products by bringing them closer to the market. At the time he decided to locate

⁵ Fred remained in educational work for about twenty years and was superintendent of the North Des Moines schools at the time he gave up teaching.

in Palo Alto County instead of near Storm Lake, he thought he was going there only a short time ahead of the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railroad which had already been surveyed through that part of the State. With that in view he began to accumulate land until, as he said, he was "land poor". The repeated invasions of the grasshoppers and an occasional crop failure together with the long delay in the coming of the railroad discouraged him. "This land will be valuable", he said, "but it will not be in my time." He then began getting rid of our land. Finally it was all gone but the original eighty-acre homestead.

It was not until 1882 that the railroad was built through our part of the county. Many of the farmers sold out and took their profit at once. Father said he had waited fifteen years for that road and he was not going to leave just when it came. With the coming of the railroad, the founding of a town, the building of a grain elevator, and the establishment of the post office, the pioneer period in our part of Palo Alto County came to a close.

ETTA MAY LACEY CROWDER

SOME PUBLICATIONS

The Grassland of North America: Prolegomena to Its History. By James C. Malin. Lawrence, Kansas: Published by the author. 1947. Pp. 398. This volume is a study of the interrelation of science and human development within the region west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains, an area distinguished by its natural coating of grass rather than forests. Several chapters deal with plant ecology, climate, soil, and kinds of grass. One chapter presents accounts of early explorations in the southern part of the area, another discusses explorations in the central section — the country along the Platte and Upper Missouri. This is followed by "Factors in Grassland Equilibrium", the balance between vegetation and population. Other chapters discuss the effect of science on this region, studies in population, agriculture, land tenure, cities, and regional culture. The key chapter, in some respects, is number fifteen, "Webb and Regionalism", for this volume is concerned with regionalism in many phases.

The book is lithoprinted from a single-spaced typescript, fifty-three lines to a page, and its appearance tends to discourage a prospective reader. Adding to the difficulty are the many scientific and technical terms and, in some cases, an involved style. There is an extensive and valuable bibliography, but, unfortunately, no index. This volume has, however, extremely valuable material on the area covered. The preface closes with a good definition of historical writing — "any historical work is only a progress report on the enlargement of knowledge."

The Hybrid-Corn Makers: Prophets of Plenty. By A. Richard Crabb. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press. 1947. Pp. 331 and illustrations. The author, A. Richard Crabb, is a member of the agricultural department of the D. H. Brown Advertising Agency of Chicago, and has written numerous articles for farm journals. This volume tells of the struggles and successes of the

men who developed hybrid seed corn. Among these were Eugene Davenport, Cyril G. Hopkins, and Edward Murray East, of the University of Illinois, Eugene D. Funk, a seedsman of Bloomington, Illinois, George Harrison Shull of the Carnegie Institute, Donald F. Jones of Kansas, Henry A. Wallace of Iowa, H. K. Hayes and James R. Holbert, Minnesota, Raymond Baker of Iowa State College, George N. Hoffer of Purdue, Lester Pfister of Illinois, and many others.

The technique of hybrid-making is explained and many of the famous single cross and double cross hybrids are noted. The book is packed full of data on corn-growing, corn-growers, and the hybrid seed which may be one of the answers to the problem of feeding an ever-increasing population. The volume is attractively bound and jacketed, but the type is rather small for easy reading. The introduction, "What Is Hybrid Corn?", is by H. D. Hughes. An index completes the volume.

The November, 1947, number of *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*, Volume II, Number 1, contains *War Records Projects in the States, 1943-1947*, by James H. Rodabaugh.

The Continental Congress and the Plan for a Library of Congress in 1782-1783; An Episode in American Cultural History, by Fulmer Mood, is one of the articles in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for January.

The January issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Archaeological Society* contains an article by Dr. John C. McGregor of Springfield entitled *Illinois State Museum Reports on Archaeological Sites Threatened by Proposed Federal Series of Dams*.

Nebraska History for October-December, 1947, contains the following articles: *John Milton Thayer*, by Earl G. Curtis; *Indian Raids Along the Platte and Little Blue Rivers (III)*, by Leroy W. Hagerty; and *Nebraska State Historical Society in 1947*, by James C. Olson.

The Political and Military Activities of the German Element in St. Louis, 1859-1861, by Virgil C. Blum; *Missouri's "Little Dixie"*, by Robert M. Crisler; and *Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837* (Part VI), translated by William G. Bek, are the three articles in the *Missouri Historical Review* for January.

The State and Local History News for November, 1947, appeared with a new cover design, format, and content. The front cover carried a picture of a Colorado gold diggings in 1859. The issue contains an account of Georgetown, Colorado, and a report on the meeting held at Glenwood Springs and Denver, Colorado, on September 3-7, 1947.

The Molding of the Middle West, an address delivered by Thomas J. Wertenbaker at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Cleveland on December 28, 1947; and *The Migration of New Englanders to England, 1640-1660*, by William L. Sachse, are two articles relating to American history in *The American Historical Review* for January.

William Clark's Diary, May, 1826-February, 1831, edited by Louise Barry, and a fourth installment of *Letters of Julia Louisa Lovejoy, 1856-1864*, make up the February issue of *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*. This number also includes the address of the president of the Society, Milton R. McLean, on "Selective Service in Kansas — World War II".

"*History Makes the Community:*" *The Annual Society Address*, by Dan E. Clark, is one of the contributions in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December, 1947. This number also includes *Oregon Geographic Names: IX; Additions Since 1944*, by Lewis A. McArthur. Dr. Dan E. Clark was Associate Editor of *The State Historical Society of Iowa* from 1911 to 1918.

The December, 1947, number of the *Indiana Magazine of History* includes the following articles: *Medical Practices on the Frontier*, by Edward E. Dale; *The English Settlement in Southern Illinois, 1815-1825*, by Jane Rodman; *Prosperity and Hard Times in the Whitewater Valley, 1830-1840*, by Chelsea L. Lawlis; and *Lambdin*

P. Milligan—A Knight of the Golden Circle, by Florence L. Grayston.

The Norwegian-American Historical Association has recently published an attractive volume, *Frontier Parsonage*, containing letters written by Olaus Fredrik Duus, a pastor in Wisconsin from 1855–1858. Most of the letters were written at Waupaca. The small volume, edited by Theodore C. Blegen, contains descriptions of life on the Midwest frontier as it appeared to a cultured, educated, and often homesick Norwegian missionary.

The December, 1947, number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* includes the following articles and addresses: *The Functions of the State Historical Society*, by Robert K. Richardson; *A Norwegian Calendar Stick in Wisconsin*, by Einar Haugen; *The Wisconsin Natural History Association*, by A. W. Schorger; *The Milwaukee County Historical Society*, by Frederic Heath; and *Olaf Erickson, Scandinavian Frontiersman* (II), by Oluf Erickson.

Land, Men and Credit, by Leo E. Manion, is a brief account of economic problems of agriculture from 1917 to 1947. It includes material on the Federal Farm Loan Board, the financial crash of 1929 and the depression of 1933, farms taken over by the Omaha Land Bank, National Farm Loan Associations, and farming conditions in World War II. The author was born in Shelby County, Iowa, and has been connected in various capacities with the Farm Loan Bank of Omaha since 1917.

Governor Ramsey and Frontier Minnesota: Impressions from His Diary and Letters, by Marion Ramsey Furness; *Territorial History: A Bibliographical Note*, by Carlton C. Qualey; *A Wit Looks at Old Fort Ripley* (a letter written at Fort Ripley in 1852 and published in the *New York Spirit of the Times*), edited by Philip D. Jordan; and *A New Tool for a New History*, by Hermine Munz Baumhofer, are the four articles in *Minnesota History* for December, 1947.

The *Indiana History Bulletin* for December, 1947, contains the *State Historical Almanac* for 1948 with an historical event for

each day except February 29th. There are also descriptions of the disposal of public lands, making new farms, contributions to agriculture, the first agricultural society, farm crops and implements, preservation of foods, the first State Fair, the Indiana Farm Bureau, 4-H club work, and centennial farm families. A list of farm families having owned their farms for at least one hundred years is included.

The September, 1947, issue of *The Wisconsin Archeologist* includes: *A Prehistoric Tragedy in Grant County*, by John M. Douglass; *Juneau County Petroglyphs*, by Robert E. Ritzenthaler; *Vilas County Serpent Mound*, also by Robert E. Ritzenthaler; and *Chipped "Arrowheads"*, by Vetal Winn. The December, 1947, number contains the following articles: *Waubeka Indian Mound Group*, by Kermit Freckmann; *A Unique Copper Specimen*, by George Pasco and W. C. McKern; and *Unusual Varieties of Common Types of Indian Implements*, by Vetal Winn.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Review for December, 1947, includes six articles and papers — *Myths of the Bryan Campaign*, by James A. Barnes; *The Decline of the Equity Cooperative Exchange*, by Theodore Saloutos; *A Spy on the Western Waters: The Military Intelligence Mission of General Collot in 1796*, by George W. Kyte; *Forging the United States Army in World War II into a Combined Arms Team*, by Kent Roberts Greenfield; *Recent Studies of Turner and the Frontier Doctrine*, by George W. Pierson; and *Hamilton and Monroe*, by Philip Marsh.

Thomas Corwin and the Conservative Republican Reaction, 1858-1861, by Daryl Pendergraft; *John Brown's Ohio Environment*, by Mary Land; *The Miami Country, 1750-1815, as Described in Journals and Letters*, by Elizabeth Faries; *Abraham Lincoln Visits with His People*, by J. H. Cramer; and *The American Veterans of Foreign Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars*, by George T. Trial, are the articles included in *The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for January. The magazine is now printed from Bodoni type on a finer grade of paper for better preservation.

The supplementary number of *The Newberry Library Bulletin* for June, 1947, is *A Midwest Bibliography*. The list of books on Iowa, compiled by William J. Petersen, includes Bess Streeter Aldrich's *Song of Years*; Cyrenus Cole's *Iowa Through the Years*; Paul Corey's *Three Miles Square*; Josephine Donovan's *Black Soil*; Hamlin Garland's *Son of the Middle Border*; Herbert Quick's *Vandemark's Folly*; Hartzell Spence's *One Foot in Heaven*; Ruth Suckow's *Country People*; *Iowa: A Guide to the Hawkeye State*; and *The Palimpsest*. Dr. Petersen is also author of the brief section on water transport.

The Folklore Lincoln, by David Donald; *The Historians of the Northwest Ordinance*, by Ray A. Billington; *Destruction of the Mormon Temple at Nauvoo*, by Joseph Earl Arrington; and *An Illinois Educator — Frederick Gordon Bonser*, by Louella Bonser, are the articles in the December, 1947, number of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. The number also contains a description of Henri de Tonti's *An Account of Monsieur De La Salle's Last Expedition and Discoveries in North America*. This description of a very old book ends the series of such reviews issued under the title "Illinois Bookshelf".

Walter Havighurst, a native of Wisconsin, and now Professor of English at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, has written an interesting volume on the history of the Old Northwest, under the title *Land of Promise The Story of the Northwest Territory*. This volume deals with the expansion of the United States, Indians and explorers north of the Ohio, burial mounds and forests, lakes and rivers, George Rogers Clark and Simon Girty, Starved Rock and Treason Island, steamboats and railroads, canals and highways — the march of civilization across an inland empire. The book is good reading in spite of rather small type. It has a brief index, but neither bibliography nor footnotes.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has issued a *Subject Bibliography of Wisconsin History*, compiled by Leroy Schlinkert. The volume of 213 pages is paper-bound and contains lists of references on Wisconsin history grouped under some twenty-six main

heads. Each main head has subheads, with references under each one, "Business, Industry, Agriculture", for example, has as subheads, Manufacturing, Regulation of Public Utilities, Money and Banking, Lumbering, Inventions and Inventors, Insurance, Merchandising, Mining, Water Power, Coöperatives, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Sociology. The bibliography contains valuable material on Wisconsin, but specific items will be difficult to find, for the volume contains neither table of contents nor an index.

The Forest Products History Foundation, in coöperation with the Minnesota Historical Society, has recently published *Time in the Timber*, by C. M. Oehler. This is the second in the series sponsored by the Foundation. The introduction is by Rodney C. Loehr, director of the Foundation, and Lucile Kane, associate editor. The booklet presents a firsthand account of life in a logging camp in the summer of 1928, told by a young camp clerk. Mr. Oehler is now director of research for the western offices of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn and the story was prepared for the research staff of this firm. A map of the area south of Rainy Lake where several logging camps were located is included. There are also some pictures. *Time in the Timber* gives a good account of life in modern logging camps.

A monograph entitled *Agricultural Literature and the Early Illinois Farmer*, by Richard Bardolph, has been published by the University of Illinois Press, and constitutes Volume XXIX, numbers 1 and 2 of the *Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences*. Chapters on "Books and Farmer Education", "Newspapers, Advertising Matter, and the Farmer", "Published Proceedings and Transactions of Societies", "Agricultural Periodicals in Illinois to 1870 and Their Program", "The Agricultural Journals and Farming Practice", and "The Farm Journals and Rural Society" indicate the field covered by the study. A list of agricultural journals published in Illinois—down to January, 1870, a list of prominent American horticultural writers for the same period, a valuable bibliography, and an index complete the volume. Although the area covered does not include Iowa, much of the material on farm

journals and their influence on agriculture is equally applicable to States surrounding Illinois. Many of these farm journals, of course, circulated in Iowa and this account of agricultural literature is interesting reading for Iowans as well as for residents of Illinois.

IOWANA

The office of the Adjutant General of Iowa has issued a mimeographed *Historical Report Operation of Selective Service in Iowa*.

The Iowa Aeronautics Commission has recently published *Iowans Flying, A Survey for the Development of Aviation in the State of Iowa*.

Land Boom Storm Signals, by W. G. Murray, is one of the articles in the February issue of *Iowa Farm Science*. Another article in the same number is *Save That Soil*, by G. M. Browning.

The Iowa Dental Bulletin for December, 1947, has a brief biographical sketch of Dr. Alvin Wesley Bryan, Dean of the College of Dentistry of the State University of Iowa.

A pamphlet entitled *The Little Brown Church in the Vale* has been published by the *Nashua Reporter*. It contains historical data concerning the church, pictures of the church, and a copy of the song.

The *Iowa Parent-Teacher* for February contains biographical sketches of Mrs. Theodore W. Birney and Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, co-founders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The Goose Flight of Western Iowa, by Jack W. and Mary R. Musgrove, and *The Fifth Annual Iowa Spring Bird Census*, compiled by Pearle C. Walker, are two contributions in *Iowa Bird Life* for December, 1947.

The Battle for Biennial Elections, by George M. Titus; *Broadened Layman Activity in M. E. Church*, by R. E. Harvey; and *The Upper Mississippi in 1840*, by O. E. Klingaman, are the three articles in *The Annals of Iowa* for January.

Midland Schools for January contains *This Is Our Stand*, a survey of the attitude of the Iowa State Education Association on State taxes and finance, written by F. K. Schmidt, president of the Association, and Charles F. Martin, executive secretary.

Dr. Charles H. Morse, Eagle Grove, Oldest Practicing Physician in Iowa, by Dr. Walter L. Bierring, is one of the articles in *The Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society* for January. The issues for February and March include *Philosophy of a Medical Service Plan*, by Dr. F. L. Feierabend.

The Bulletin of the Linn County Medical Society for January includes a synopsis of the address delivered by Vilhjalmur Stefansson and a history of the Virginia Gay Hospital at Vinton, by L. W. Koontz and T. L. Cladbourne. The February issue contains *History of John McDonald Hospital, Monticello, Iowa*, by T. M. Redmon.

Major General Grenville M. Dodge (1831-1916) Maker of History in the Great West, an address by George F. Ashby, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, has been published in pamphlet form. The address was delivered before a meeting of the American Branch of the National Newcomen Society of England at New York on November 25, 1947.

The First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids has recently issued a booklet entitled *A Centennial History of First Presbyterian Church 1847-1947*. The account of the founding of the church indicates that organization began in 1847 with nine members. The volume includes an historical sketch of the first church (Little Muddy), by J. F. Ely; a history of the stone church, by E. E. Leach and Charles H. Clark; and an account of women's work, by Mrs. Charles Penningroth.

Iowa's Six New Lakes, by H. W. Freed, and *Iowa State Parks in 1947*, by Wilbur A. Rush, are two of the articles in the *Iowa Conservationist* for December 15, 1947. The number of January 15, 1948, contains the report of the committee appointed by Governor Robert D. Blue and Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife

Management Institute, Washington, D. C., to make a survey of the work of the State Conservation Commission. The issue also contains an article on *Indian Mounds of Northeast Iowa*.

The State University of Iowa has recently distributed six additional biographies in the series of Centennial Memoirs. These include: *Samuel Calvin*, by Harrison John Thornton; *Washington Freeman Peck*, by John T. McClintock; *Benjamin Franklin Shambaugh*, by Nellie Slayton Aurner; *Bohumil Shimek*, by Walter F. Loehwing; *Thomas Huston Macbride*, by Mary Winifred Conklin Schertz and Walter L. Myers; and *Isaac Althaus Loos*, by Karl D. Loos and Helen Loos Whitney. The foreword in each number is by Harrison John Thornton.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

Tribute to G. F. Hook, by Mrs. Clara Madsen, in the *Stratford Courier*, November 13, 1947.

Winter in Delaware County in 1842, in the *Manchester Press*, November 13, 1947.

The Madrid Methodist Church is 90 years old, in the *Madrid Register-News*, November 13, 1947.

Historic homes in Eddyville, by O. H. Seifert, in the *Eddyville Tribune*, November 13, 1947.

When Samuel J. Kirkwood held a reception at his Iowa City home, by J. E. Reizenstein, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, November 14, 1947.

The Junior League Convalescent Home in Des Moines was built to take care of children, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 16, 1947.

Earl H. Reed asks preservation of historic Iowa buildings, by Don Freeman, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, November 16, 1947.

Biographical sketch of Judge D. C. Browning, in the *Sioux City Journal-Tribune*, November 18, the *Des Moines Register*, No-

vember 19, and the *Mapleton Press* and *Onawa Democrat*, November 20, 1947.

Pioneer tells of building first house at Indianola, in the *Indianola Record-Herald*, November 20, 1947.

Biographical sketch of Edwin Diller Starbuck, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 20, 1947.

The story of Peoria, Iowa, by W. G. Kelly, in the *Corydon Times-Republican*, November 20, 1947.

Fred Baker DeWitt knows old Indian trails in Iowa, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, November 25, 1947.

Biographical sketch of Dr. A. E. Bullock, founder of the Ellsworth College Conservatory of Music, in the *Iowa Falls Citizen*, November 27, 1947.

John Crockett, reading clerk of the U. S. Senate for forty years, has retired and will return to Eldora, in the *Iowa Falls Citizen*, November 27, 1947.

Biographical sketch of Mahala Dutton Douglas, widow of Walter D. Douglas, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 30, 1947.

John S. Nollen, a professor at Grinnell College for 40 years, is dead, in the *Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette*, December 1, 1947.

Iowa statistics, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, December 3, and the *Maquoketa Community Press*, December 4, 1947.

Christmas held deep religious meaning for the pioneers, in the *Eagle Grove Eagle*, December 4, 1947.

E. J. Carpenter is "King of Melodrama", in the *Osage Press*, December 4, 1947.

Red Oak was famed as a horse-racing center, in the *Red Oak Express*, December 4, 1947.

Fiftieth anniversary of North English Methodist Church, in the *North English Record*, December 4, 1947.

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Fred G. Turner, pioneer and former legislator, is dead, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, December 5, and the *Williamsburg Journal-Tribune* and *Marengo Pioneer-Republican*, December 11, 1947.

Biographical sketch of Judge William W. Scott, in the *Davenport Democrat* and the *Davenport Times*, December 8, 1947.

First all-weather, surfaced road in Iowa was paved with oak, in the *Guthrie Center Guthrian*, December 9, 1947.

Professor Winfred T. Root, head of the University of Iowa history department since 1925, is dead, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 10, 1947.

Hopkinton was flourishing town in 1871, in the *Hopkinton Leader*, December 11, 1947.

Origin of place-names around McGregor, in the *McGregor Times*, December 11, 1947.

Former State Senator, T. C. Cessna, is dead, in the *Montezuma Republican*, December 11, 1947.

Roy Brown restores pioneer home at High Point, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 11, 1947.

Biographical sketch of John G. Merritt, former State Senator, in the *Carroll Herald*, December 12, and the *Des Moines Register*, December 13, 1947.

Roy Kauffman, world traveler and author, was host to fellow adventurer at Des Moines, by Jane Boulware, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 12, 1947.

How Woodward got its hospital, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 15, 1947.

Former legislator, Henry L. Adams, is dead, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 15, 1947.

New folder boasts of attractions in Emmetsburg, in the *Emmetsburg Reporter*, December 16, 1947.

New towboats beat old time steamboats, in the *Pella Chronicle*, December 18, 1947.

A short description of Van Buren County in 1856, in the *Keosauqua Register*, December 18, 1947.

Iowa has many fine colleges, in the *Pella Chronicle*, December 18, and the *Oskaloosa Tribune*, December 24, 1947.

An article of Iowa life 100 years ago, in the *Montezuma Republican*, December 18, and the *Lamoni Chronicle*, December 25, 1947.

Grandma Kilworth is 106 years old, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, December 17, and the *Exira Journal*, the *Audubon Advertiser-Republican*, and the *Des Moines Register*, December 18, 1947.

Pioneer resident, David Pink, Sr., is dead, in the *Buffalo Center Tribune*, December 18, 1947.

Iowa's oldest Baptist Church has been damaged by fire, in the *New London Journal*, December 18, 1947.

Story of "Lott Atrocity", in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 18, 1947.

District Judge M. G. Kellam died at his home in Greenfield, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 18, and the *Greenfield Free Press*, December 25, 1947.

Ben Taylor, former slave, is 110 years old, in the *Shenandoah Sentinel*, December 19, 1947.

Ninety-six year old pioneer resident recalls fleeing from Indians, in the *Carroll Herald*, December 22, 1947.

Iowa in the 1870's, in the *Wheatland Gazette*, December 24 and 31, 1947.

An early Decatur County magazine, in the *Lamoni Chronicle*, December 25, 1947.

The *Alden Times* is no more, in the *Iowa Falls Citizen*, December 25, 1947.

John Brown stopped near Marengo in 1859, in the *Marengo Pioneer-Republican*, December 25, 1947.

The "Tite Bark" schoolhouse, in the *Mount Pleasant Free Press*, December 25, 1947.

Christmas program in Sibley 50 years ago, in the *Sibley Gazette-Tribune*, December 25, 1947.

Humboldt boy demonstrates air rescue techniques to Gen. Bradley, in the *Humboldt Republican*, December 26, 1947.

Anamosa man rejects honor of being Duke of Edinburgh, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 28, 1947.

Biographical sketch of T. W. Smith, former Drake University faculty member and poet, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 28, 1947.

Eight-sided house is sightseer's delight, in the *Red Oak Express*, December 29, 1947.

Illustrious Iowans in the nation's capital, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 31, 1947.

Early Iowa school days, in the *Sabula Gazette*, January 1, 1948.

Early pioneer resident dies at Sibley, in the *Sibley Gazette-Tribune*, January 1, 1948.

Roy Porter, noted Iowa war correspondent, is dead, in the *Mount Pleasant Free Press*, January 1, 1948.

History of the Iowa Cronbaugh family, by Mrs. M. J. Kiger, in the *Blairstown Press*, January 1, 1948.

First Iowa linotype and printing course offered at the University of Iowa, in the *Blairstown Press*, January 1, 1948.

Partial translation of an ancient Indian song has been located by R. E. Thompson, in the *Tama News-Herald*, January 1, 1948.

Details about man who built first house in Warren County, in the *Indianola Record-Herald*, January 1, 1948.

Mrs. Martha Hiatt is Appanoose County's oldest resident, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, January 1, 1948.

Carrie E. Allen, veteran teacher of Lucas County, reminisces, in the *Chariton Herald-Patriot*, January 1, 1948.

A modern home of 1850, in the *Bussey Community Effort*, January 2, 1948.

Historic Tabor church is rebuilt, by Phil Gurney, in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, January 4, 1948.

Morris brothers, John and Arthur, build museum of early Iowana, by George Shane, in the *Des Moines Register*, January 4, 1948.

The power of music, a story about George W. Landers, in the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*, January 5, 1948.

Early days in Palo Alto County (part six), by W. D. Powers, in the *Emmetsburg Reporter*, January 6, 1948.

How Osgood was named, in the *Emmetsburg Reporter*, January 6, 1948.

Charles R. Stafford of Muscatine is dead, in the *Muscatine Journal* and the *Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1948.

Career of James B. Weaver, in the *Waterloo Courier*, January 7, 1948.

Old trees in Decorah will be saved, in the *Decorah Journal*, January 8, 1948.

Early history of the *Birmingham Enterprise*, written by Wilson E. Ross, in the *Bonaparte Record*, January 8, 1948.

History of the *Free Press*, in the *Mount Pleasant Free Press*, January 8, 1948.

Origin of street names in Algona, by Inez Wolfe, in the *Algona Advance*, January 8, 1948.

Discussion of "Party Splits", in the *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, January 10, 1948.

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Pioneer home north of Garnavillo is 103 years old, by Florence L. Clark, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* and the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, January 11, 1948.

Hattie Elston becomes successful author, by Editha K. Webster, in the *Sioux City Journal*, January 11, 1948.

Creston woman recalls "great blizzard of 1888", in the *Creston News-Advertiser*, January 13, 1948.

Statistics about the Des Moines River, in the *Bonaparte Record*, January 15, and the *Lockridge Times*, January 22, 1948.

Joe Sanders of Centerville recalls slavery days, by C. B. Depuy, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, January 16, 1948.

Des Moines' First Baptist Church celebrates 97th anniversary, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, January 17, 1948.

Biographical sketch of Isaac Hawthorne, pioneer resident, in the *Nevada Journal*, January 17, 1948.

Dubuque "elevator" is tourist mecca, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, January 18, 1948.

Iowa Representatives are members of important House committees, in the *Sioux City Journal*, January 18, 1948.

How Woodward got its name, in the *Woodward Enterprise*, January 22, 1948.

Charles Mitchell built "horseless carriage", in the *Montezuma Republican*, January 22, 1948.

Historic sites in Humboldt County, by Mrs. Florence Axne, in the *Humboldt Republican*, January 23, 1948.

Clarence R. Aurner, historian, in the *Ottumwa Courier*, the *Des Moines Tribune*, the *Iowa City Daily Iowan*, the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, the *Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette*, the *Creston News-Advertiser*, and the *Estherville News*, January 23, and the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January 24, 1948.

Mount Pleasant woman, Mrs. J. T. Whiting, recalls posing for the Muse of History on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Des Moines, by George Shane, in the *Des Moines Register*, January 25, 1948.

Mahaska County's first mill, by O. H. Seifert, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, January 27, 1948.

Home in Richland Township, built by William Moore, is 115 years old, in the *Monticello Express*, January 29, 1948.

Biographical sketch of Julien Dubuque, by Jessie M. Dwelle, in the *Nora Springs Advertiser*, January 29, 1948.

Oskaloosa sixty-eight years ago, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, January 30, 1948.

Friends greet Burton Sweet on visit to Washington, D. C., in the *Waverly Democrat*, January 30, 1948.

George Leckington, sculptor, suggests that Chief Black Hawk was murdered in Wisconsin, by Bob McHugh, in the *Waterloo Courier*, February 1, 1948.

Iowa's Indian mounds are some of the finest in the United States, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, February 2, 1948.

John Brown in Iowa, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, February 3, 1948.

Memoir tells of Benj. F. Shambaugh, by Paul De Camp, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, February 3, 1948.

Wheatland was a railroad terminal in 1857, in the *Wheatland Gazette*, February 4, 1948.

Pen and ink drawing shows homecoming of the First Iowa Infantry in 1861, in the *Davenport Times*, February 4, 1948.

Prices were low in Iowa a century ago, in the *Sheffield Press*, February 5, 1948.

Oldest surviving native of Calhoun County was born in a log cabin

near Coon River 88 years ago, in the *Rockwell City Advocate*, February 5, 1948.

Ottumwa is celebrating its centennial year, in the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 6, 1948.

Thirty-two men over eighty years of age meet in Burlington, in the *Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette*, February 6, 1948.

Biographical sketch of Paul Stewart, ex-State Senator, in the *Oelwein Register*, February 6, and the *Des Moines Tribune*, February 7, 1948.

Iowa Capitol receives new insults, in the *Waterloo Courier*, February 8, 1948.

John King was editor of first Iowa newspaper, in the *Dyersville Commercial*, February 11, 1948.

Biographical sketch of G. W. Swan, Sr., Baptist preacher and legislator, in the *Mystic Sentinel*, February 12, 1948.

Branch Rickey, manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, was once on the LeMars baseball team, in the *LeMars Globe-Post*, February 12, 1948.

Potato chips originated near Hamburg, in the *Hamburg Reporter*, February 12, 1948.

First Congregational Church of Creston observes 75th anniversary, in the *Creston News-Advertiser*, February 12, 1948.

Mrs. Shepherd Philpot, Black Hawk County's oldest resident, is 101 years old, in the *Davenport Democrat*, February 13, 1948.

Negro History Week, in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, February 13, 1948.

Boy finds 66-lb. prehistoric bone at Avoca, Iowa, in the *Des Moines Register*, February 15, 1948.

Mary J. Thompson, Hamilton County pioneer, starts second century, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, February 14, 1948.

Radio actor, Ercil Twing, is from Strawberry Point, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, February 15, 1948.

Former legislator, Ernest P. Harrison, is dead, in the *Harlan News-Advertiser*, February 17, 1948.

Osceola is pronounced "Ah-see-o-la", in the *Osceola Tribune*, February 17, 1948.

Lady Astor visits modern Iowa farm, in the *Des Moines Register*, February 17, 1948.

Decorah's oldest resident, Mrs. Anna Renken, reminisces about Decorah, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, February 18, 1948.

Peter Oeschger, Jones County pioneer and former carpenter, remembers early days, in the *Monticello Express*, February 19, 1948.

Iowa author, Neil Slocum, writes fiction with historical background, in the *Clear Lake Mirror*, February 19, 1948.

Thirteen hotels once flourished in Independence, in the *Independence Bulletin-Journal*, February 19, 1948.

Abraham Lincoln owned land in Tama County, in the *Toledo Chronicle*, February 19, 1948.

Old Calliope mill was a thriving enterprise in Sioux County, in the *Hawarden Independent*, February 19, 1948.

Biographical sketch of Elizabeth Quick, Pottawattamie County pioneer, in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, February 20, 1948.

Thomas Heggen, Fort Dodge man, is writer of famous Broadway play, in the *Des Moines Register*, February 22, 1948.

Guns which helped win wilderness are being preserved by Dubuque man, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, February 22, 1948.

Jones Mill Grange passes 75th year, by Clarence Cox, in the *Waterloo Courier*, February 22, 1948.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The annual meeting of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio was held at Columbus, Ohio, on December 1, 1947. Howard H. Peckham gave an address on the White Water canal, entitled "Rip-Roaring Canal Days".

Minnesota plans for the celebration of the State's centennial in 1949 include an art exhibit which may be loaned to rural areas. The first publication of the Minnesota Historical Society concerning the centennial is an information pamphlet entitled *Observing Minnesota's 100th Birthday*. It contains suggestions for the celebration in local communities.

The seventy-second annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society was held in the rooms of the Society at Topeka on October 21, 1947, with R. T. Aitchison, vice president, presiding. At the business meeting Mr. Aitchison, Wichita, was elected president, R. F. Brock and Frank Haucke vice presidents. Charles M. Harger, president of the Eisenhower Memorial Foundation, gave a report on the work of that organization.

A committee of eleven historians, with Solon J. Buck as chairman, has recently submitted a report concerning the authenticity of *The Horn Papers: Early Westward Movement on the Monongahela and Upper Ohio, 1765-1795*, published in 1945 by the Greene County (Pa.) Historical Society. The report indicates that the materials in the first two volumes show evidence of being fabrications, but that the third volume, containing maps prepared by the Pennsylvania Land Office, is a valuable addition to historical materials.

The annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Missouri was held at Columbia on October 17, 1947. The guest speaker was Dr. William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and his subject was "Steamboating on the Upper

Mississippi River". G. L. Zwick was elected president of the Society for a three-year term. Dr. Isidor Loeb, retiring president, announced that the Society, with 4,254 members, had nearly twice as many members as any other State historical society in the United States. Floyd C. Shoemaker is the secretary of the Society.

The Minnesota Historical Society, through its executive council which met at St. Paul on January 12, 1948, has chosen the following officers for 1948: Bergmann Richards, president; August C. Krey and Judge Clarence R. Magney, vice presidents; Carlton C. Qualey, secretary; and Julian B. Baird, treasurer. The Society has received a collection of plans, drawings, blueprints, and correspondence relating to the building of the Minnesota Capitol. The papers, filling over a hundred filing cases, were the gift of the Davidson Company of St. Paul. Cass Gilbert was the architect.

The Illinois State Historical Society held its forty-eighth annual meeting at Rockford on October 31 and November 1, 1947. Paul M. Angle gave a talk on the Lincoln papers and Abbie Findlay Potts spoke on "The Importance of Action in Local History", using the history of Rockford College as an example. The main address at the dinner was given by Thomas D. Clark on the subject, "The Country Newspaper as a Source of Local History". On Saturday morning Conrad Bergendoff, president of Augustana College, spoke on "The Swedish Pioneer Centennial Observance in Illinois in 1948", and Charles E. Herrick gave a brief history of Rockford and points of interest to be visited on the tour. At the luncheon Herbert O. Brayer, State archivist of Colorado, spoke on "Our Problem in Europe". The directors elected Irving Dilliard of Collinsville president of the Society and Scerial Thompson and C. C. Tisler vice presidents. J. Monaghan, the secretary of the Society, presented his annual report, showing a total of 1890 members.

The twenty-first historical tour sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the first held since the one in 1942 occurred on September 13, 1947. About two hundred and fifty persons gathered at the museum of the Hennepin County Historical Society, co-

sponsor of the trip, in Minneapolis. The first stop was made at Wayzata on the shore of Lake Minnetonka where the party was welcomed by Mayor C. H. Shaver and heard a talk on the pioneer history of the region given by Dana Frear, president of the Hennepin County Society. At a stop at the home of Bergmann Richards, Welles Eastman and Grace Lee Nute gave talks on the history around Lake Minnetonka and the region in that area and Lloyd A. Wilford discussed archeological excavations in the vicinity. At the luncheon at the Minnetonka Country Club Carlton C. Quayley presented extracts from a narrative written in 1856 by Edwin Whitefield and Theodore C. Blegen gave autobiographical material under the title "The Saga of Saga Hill". The final session was held at Excelsior where Reverend Horton I. French related the history of Trinity Episcopal Church.

IOWA

The Webster County Historical Society has added to its museum the doll collection of Mrs. Murta Harmon and a curio collection of relics made by H. A. Van Eps of Moorland. Maude Lauderdale is curator of the museum.

In January, 1948, the Mahaska County Historical Society installed its historical museum material in the rooms of the G. A. R. in the courthouse at Oskaloosa. Among the collections are those donated by A. W. Mattox and Charles Kent.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The regular meeting of the Board of Curators on February 25, 1948, was attended by fourteen of the eighteen members of the Board: H. J. Lytle and L. H. Kornder, Davenport; W. Howard Smith, Cedar Rapids; Raymond J. Hekel, Mt. Pleasant; Laurence C. Crawford, Charles E. Snyder, and William R. Hart, Iowa City; Carl H. Mather, Tipton; Mrs. Helen L. Vanderburg, Shell Rock; Mrs. Fannie B. Hammill, Britt; Mrs. Margaret Jones Hinderman, Wapello; Mrs. Anna M. Morrison, Grundy Center; Mrs. Louella B. Thurston, Osceola; and O. J. Henderson, Webster City.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. W. N. Becker, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Miss Ellen Behrens, Denver, Colo.; Miss Minnie S. Behrens, Huntsville, Tex.;

Mr. F. G. Boody, Kansas City, Mo.; Hon. A. D. Clem, Sioux City, Iowa; Dr. Robert M. Collison, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. H. O. Croft, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Chan F. Coulter, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Glenn Danforth, Onawa, Iowa; Hon. J. T. Dykhouse, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Mr. J. W. Forster, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Simon Foss, Inwood, Iowa; Mrs. G. E. Greene, Albion, Iowa; Mr. A. L. Heminger, Keosauqua, Iowa; Mr. Ben A. Henry, Des Moines, Iowa; Hon. Robert Keir, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. A. O. Kelley, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Alice Klippel, Britt, Iowa; Hon. Frank J. Krall, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Olive W. Lark, Rapid City, S. Dak.; Hon. Robert L. Larson, Des Moines, Iowa; Hon. H. A. Moore, New Hartford, Iowa; Mr. George E. Mowry, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Philip O'Brien, Chicago, Ill.; Hon. George L. Paul, Brooklyn, Iowa; Miss Marie Pennybacker, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Roosevelt High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. A. G. Roberts, Bonaparte, Iowa; Hon. Glenn E. Robinson, Manchester, Iowa; Miss Norma Roth, Bettendorf, Iowa; Mr. James H. Schmidt, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. John A. Schoonover, Boise, Idaho; Mr. L. H. Severson, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Hon. Ernest T. Smith, Volga, Iowa; Hon. Ira L. Turner, Malvern, Iowa; Mr. Frank J. Zeithamel, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. C. W. Antes, West Union, Iowa; Mr. W. O. Aydelotte, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Dorothy Barclay, Dundee, Iowa; Mr. Oliver R. Barrett, Kenilworth, Ill.; Mr. John T. Conner, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. G. W. Donohoo, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. R. Taylor Drake, Moline, Ill.; Mr. Dan C. Dutcher, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Claire Freiberg, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Bruce Harley, Macomb, Ill.; Mr. Matthew W. Hart, Davenport, Iowa; Mrs. Chas. J. Hearst, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. Reid L. Hunt, Tipton, Iowa; Independence Public Schools, Independence, Iowa; Miss Laura Lewis, Dundee, Iowa; Hon. J. Henry Lucken, Akron, Iowa; Mrs. W. H. McCracken, Villisca, Iowa; Mr. Bertram Metcalf, Davenport, Iowa; Mrs. Frank O'Brien, Pocahontas, Iowa; Mrs. M. W. Pascoe, San Gabriel, Calif.; Miss Hazel Peck, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Herb Plambeck, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Daryl Pendergraft, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. Edward F. Rate, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. O. J. Reimers, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Miss Bertha Riemath, Dundee, Iowa; Mr. L. C. Rummells, West Branch, Iowa;

Mr. Wallace E. Sherlock, Fairfield, Iowa; Mrs. Dorothy Stevens, Manchester, Iowa; Mr. Ben J. Taylor, Fairfield, Iowa; Hon. L. E. Wilson, Eagle Grove, Iowa; Rev. Evans A. Worthley, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Ada Zimmerman, Ladora, Iowa; Mrs. J. F. Alexander, Conrad, Iowa; Mrs. Eva Benzler, Britt, Iowa; Mr. Herbert C. Bixby, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Clifford B. Bowman, Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. Ira A. Buckles, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Robert S. Casey, Fort Madison, Iowa; Mr. Ben J. Connor, Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. Claude R. Cook, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. William L. Cupp, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Robert Day, Washington, Iowa; Mr. John M. Dinges, Bedford, Iowa; Mr. J. Wilbur Dole, Fairfield, Iowa; Mr. Joe Du Mond, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. R. Eliason, Letts, Iowa; Mrs. Imogen B. Emery, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Carl Frederic Erbe, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Luther L. Hill, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Janice Howes, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. James H. Hulse, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa; Iowa State Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. H. E. Johnson, Davenport, Iowa; Rev. Henry B. Karhoff, Oyens, Iowa; Mrs. Robert W. Larson, Albia, Iowa; Mr. Clifford R. Lawson, Ottumwa, Iowa; Miss Dorothy Mae Lindberg, Odebolt, Iowa; Miss Eva Lindgren, Ames, Iowa; Mr. Edward W. Lucas, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Frank H. McCabe, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. C. Douglas McMillan, Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. C. Hugh McMillan, Coinjock, N. C.; Mr. Herbert L. McMillan, Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. Paul J. McMillan, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mr. Jack Moskowitz, Davenport, Iowa; Hon. S. W. Needham, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Myron E. Nelson, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Eva Miller Nourse, Des Moines, Iowa; Hon. Ralph A. Oliver, Sioux City, Iowa; Rev. Louis P. Penningroth, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Fred Ray, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. C. Leon Riegel, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Joe G. Sage, Waterloo, Iowa; Dr. R. W. Slack, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Loren Taylor, Earlville, Iowa; Mr. John C. Tunnicliff, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Arthur Wagner, Davenport, Iowa; and Mrs. Lowell Wolfer, Sheridan, Oreg.

The following persons have been enrolled as life members in the Society: Mrs. Dorothy E. Bowley, Jefferson, Iowa; Mr. Henry C. Priester, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Raymond J. Schlicher, Iowa City, Iowa; and Dr. Martha J. Spence Van Deusen, Iowa City, Iowa.

NOTES AND COMMENT

James Norman Hall, the famous writer from Colfax, Iowa, and his wife, residents of Tahiti, visited in Iowa in November, 1947.

Denison and Cedar Rapids are among the cities mentioned in *We Called It Culture*, the story of Chautauqua, by Victoria and Robert Ormand Case.

Nellie Verne Walker, sculptor of the statue of James Harlan in Statuary Hall at Washington, D. C., and the statue of Chief Keokuk in Rand Park, Keokuk, was born in Red Oak, and lived for a time in Moulton, Iowa.

Thomas Moses, one-time vice president of the United States Steel Company, who died February 20, 1948, was born in Lucas, Iowa, the son of a coal miner, and knew John L. Lewis, who was born there about ten years later.

The University of Wisconsin has set up a Committee on the Study of American Civilization to administer a grant by the Humanities Division of the Rockefeller Foundation for the study of the biographical, political, economic, and cultural history of Wisconsin and the area of which it is a part.

A cement figure of Black Hawk, made by George Leekington in 1932 as the model for a fourteen foot statue of the old chief intended to stand at the Iowa approach to the Black Hawk Bridge over the Mississippi River at Lansing, now stands in the courthouse lobby at Waterloo. The statue was never made.

Claude U. Stone of Peoria, Illinois, was elected president of the Illinois State Archaeological Society at the fall meeting of the Society at Springfield on October 26, 1947. He has a large collection of articles portraying the Indian way of life. Dr. John B. Ruyle was made president emeritus, Byron W. Knoblock, first vice president, Mrs. Ethel Schoenbeck, secretary, Ben Nussbaum, treasurer, and C. C. Burford, editor of the *Journal of the Illinois State Archaeological Society*.

CONTRIBUTORS

LYDA BELTHUIS, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch. Born at Parkersburg, Iowa. Received B. A. degree from Iowa State Teachers College in May, 1939, the M. A. degree from the Colorado State College of Education in August, 1943, and the Ph. D. degree in geography from the University of Michigan in June, 1947. Taught social studies in the Lincoln School at Burlington, Iowa, 1939-1943, and served as principal of the Perkins School at Burlington, 1943-1944. Was assistant in the Department of Geography, University of Michigan, 1945-1946, and teaching fellow in the same department, September, 1946-June, 1947. Is now teaching geography at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch.

ETTA MAY LACEY CROWDER. Etta May Lacey was born in Howard County, Iowa, on November 2, 1861, and died in Oakland, California, on May 24, 1933. She was married to William Elford Crowder on May 28, 1884, and the couple lived on a farm northeast of Curlew, Iowa, until 1893. They lived in Curlew for a year, but in 1894 moved to Laurens, where Mr. Crowder was in business. After 1918 Mrs. Crowder made her home in California. Mr. and Mrs. Crowder had three children: Cora May (Mrs. Walker Moore Alderton), a teacher in Chicago, now retired; Myrtle Belle (Mrs. Harold Lee Winsor, mother of Kathleen Winsor, author of *Forever Amber*), of Oakland, California; and William Albion Crowder, a businessman of Spokane, Washington.

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THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER THROUGH MANY EYES¹

BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Mark Twain once said: "The Mississippi is well worth reading about."² Having delivered himself of this dictum, the versatile Clemens thereupon wrote a book about it. The millions of people who have chuckled over this book — *Life on the Mississippi* — must readily agree that Old Man River afforded Clemens a real challenge. Nowhere else can one find so vivid a picture of the hectic tribulations of a cub pilot on a Mississippi steamboat.

Who does not recall the advice of Pilot Horace Bixby to the young cub by his side? "My boy, you must get a little memorandum-book, and every time I tell you a thing, put it down right away. There's only one way to be a pilot, and that is to get this entire river by heart. You have to know it just like A B C." The youthful Clemens quickly learned that few professions require more exacting knowledge. "A clear starlight night," Bixby pointed out, "throws such heavy shadows that if you didn't know the shape of a shore perfectly . . . you would be getting scared to death every fifteen minutes by the watch. . . . Then there's your gray mist . . . when . . . there isn't *any* particular shape to a shore. A gray mist would tangle the head of the oldest man that ever lived. Well, then, different kinds of *moonlight* change the shape of the river different ways." Awed by the immensity of his problem, Twain concluded: "Two things seemed pretty apparent to me. One was, that in order to be a pilot a man had got to learn more than any

¹ This paper was read before the Prairie Club of Des Moines on March 25, 1939.

² Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi* (Boston, 1883), 21.

one man ought to be allowed to know; and the other was, that he must learn it all over again in a different way every twenty-four hours."³

Although the whole thing seemed hopeless in 1857, Mark Twain stuck to his post and studied hard, remaining on the river until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Two score years after his *Life on the Mississippi* appeared, scholars were still questioning the authentic realism of Mark Twain's descriptions of piloting. Not a scrap of evidence had been discovered to prove that Samuel Clemens had ever secured a pilot's license. Then, in 1928, Twain's pilot's license, issued by the United States Steamboat Inspectors at St. Louis on April 9, 1859, was discovered.⁴ The license indicated that Samuel Clemens was a "suitable and safe person to be intrusted with the powers and duties" of piloting between St. Louis and New Orleans. Photostatic copies were immediately placed in the archives of the various historical societies of the Upper Mississippi Valley.

Few voyagers are fortunate enough to view Old Man River from such a favorable perch as the pilot house. The pilot served as the eyes for the steamboat: from his position as steersman he presided over the safety of passengers and freight. Some pilots have viewed the Great River through the period of half a century or more: such men have drunk deep of the life of the Father of Waters. But at best their knowledge was limited; they generally knew only a segment of the mighty stream, such as the Upper or Lower Mississippi. They knew nothing about the Great River above the Falls of St. Anthony. They had but scant knowledge about the duties of the engineer, the fireman, the clerk, or the steward. They knew little of tariff rates and

³ *Ibid.*, 87-8; 103-104; 105.

⁴ This license was found by the author in 1928 at the St. Louis office of the United States Steamboat Inspectors.

nothing of the geology, the archeology, or the history of the majestic waterway that flows for twenty-five hundred miles through the heart of a continent. What then could they be expected to know of the fifty-four navigable tributary streams that drain the richest empire on the face of the globe?

Admitting that the duties of a Mississippi pilot are many and onerous, the labors of a Mississippi River historian are even more arduous. In the first place he must be familiar with the works of every traveler from the Spanish conquistadors to the present. This material is not restricted to books of travel alone: rich and frequently untapped sources are found in the myriad government documents that have been published, in the contemporary magazines and periodicals, in the various learned historical journals of the Mississippi Valley, in the scattered manuscript collections, and in the scores of yellowed newspaper files of yesteryears. These are his eye-witnesses, from whom he endeavors to extract and retell the story.

A few illustrations of the complexities of the various problems presented by Old Man River will suffice. Geologists have long placed the age of the Mississippi back some 60 million years, or long before the glacial period. Some recent studies indicate that the Father of Waters is not nearly so old; the birth of the Great River dates back only a million years to the beginnings of the Pleistocene period when the elephant, the mastodon, and the mammoth grazed along the lush banks of the Mississippi. The sloth, the beaver, and the saber-toothed tiger were also eye-witnesses when the Mississippi was born.

During ensuing epochs each glacier roughly buffeted the Mississippi about — so that its course was nowhere near where it is today. Once it actually flowed west of Mason City and Waterloo and just east of Des Moines, joining the

Des Moines River a short distance below Ottumwa. Thence it debouched into its present channel at Keokuk. And yet, although geologists have devoted much attention to the problem, the exact geological story of the Mississippi still has many unwritten chapters — chapters as baffling as the channel of Old Man River was to Mark Twain.⁵

The story of ancient man is equally as intriguing, and equally as perplexing. Two generations of archeologists have searched for and located earthworks of great antiquity along the Mississippi. Mounds dot the Great River of the Ojibways from its source in Lake Itasca to historic New Orleans, at Wabasha in Minnesota, at Lansing and McGregor in Iowa, and at Cahokia in Illinois, to mention a few. Only recently Dr. Charles R. Keyes found one culture superimposed upon another near the mouth of the Upper Iowa River. It was the first discovery of its kind in Iowa. It is to be hoped that ultimately the complete story will be wrested from these mute and elusive eye-witnesses.⁶

Moving swiftly up to the dawn of historic times, we find the first white explorers encountering many Indians. More than a hundred tribes are intimately associated with the history of the Great River. Their presence is attested by the rich Indian nomenclature displayed in the names of such river towns as Red Wing, Wabasha, and Minneiska; Wyalusing, Muscatine, and Keokuk; Oquawka, Cahokia,

⁵ The writer is indebted to Professors Arthur C. Trowbridge and A. K. Miller for the latest information and references on the geology of the Mississippi. See also Frank Leverett, "Old Channels of the Mississippi in South-eastern Iowa," *Annals of Iowa* (3), V (April, 1901), 38-51; Frank Leverett, "Shiftings of the Mississippi River in Relation to Glaciation," *Bulletin Geological Society of America*, LIII (1942), 1283-98; *Ninth Annual Field Conference, The Kansas Geological Society . . . Upper Mississippi Valley . . .* (Wichita, 1935).

⁶ See Henry Clyde Shetrone, *The Mound-Builders* . . . (New York, 1930); John R. Swanton, *Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico* [Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 43.] (Washington, 1911).

and Kaskaskia; Osceola, Arkansas City, and Natchez. Even the river itself was named by the red man. It was the fierce Ojibway Indians who called this waterway the Missi Sebi which means Great River. This name, at first used only in reference to the headwaters of the Great River, was passed on by various Algonquian tribes to the French fur traders and missionaries, who in turn applied it to the river as it coursed southward. In time the name Mississippi displaced the various Indian names in use along the lower river. The exact location and history of many of the tribes is still shrouded in mystery.

An accurate and readable book on Indian legends of the Mississippi from its source to its mouth is yet to be published. The tears of the Indian maiden Itasca falling to form the source of the Mississippi, picturesque Maiden Rock at the head of Lake Pepin with its romantic story of the Indian princess Winona, spirit places such as Painted Rock and Rock Island, the numerous legends associated with the Grand Tower region — these and many more must some day be brought together. At least one legend is worth recalling at this time, that of Piasa Rock just above the city of Alton.

This noted landmark invariably drew the attention of passersby. Marquette first recorded the "two painted monsters" upon which the "boldest savages" dared not long rest their eyes. "They are as large as a calf," Marquette observes, "they have Horns on their heads Like those of deer, a horrible look, red eyes, a beard Like a tiger's, a face somewhat like a man's, a body Covered with scales, and so Long A tail that it winds all around the Body, passing above the head and going back between the legs, ending in a Fish's tail. Green, red, and black are the three colors composing the Picture. Moreover, these 2 monsters are so well painted that we cannot believe that any savage is their

author; for good painters in france would find it difficult to paint so well,— and, besides, they are so high up on the rock that it is difficult to reach the place Conveniently to paint them.’’⁷

One of the best accounts of the Piasa legend has been left by John T. Kingston, an early settler in Wisconsin. The Piasa, Kingston was told, was a fierce bird of enormous size capable of carrying off men and women with ease. Its home was in a cave of the cliff where the painting was made. Every morning when the sun rose the Piasa would soar away in search of its prey. Almost every day an Indian victim was carried to the cave, and in a short time the bones only were left to tell the tale. Although they fled many miles away, the Indians could not escape the flight of the dreaded Piasa. Every stratagem that they could invent was resorted to but without avail. One night the Great Spirit appeared before the Chief in a dream, and told him to take his station before dawn on the highest point of the cliff where the Piasa made its usual appearance. The Chief was instructed to place twelve of his bravest warriors in ambush close by, with bows and poisoned arrows, ready to shoot the moment the Piasa swooped down upon him. The Chief did exactly as he was instructed. “Just as the sun was seen rising in the east,” Kingston relates, “the Piasa appeared, soared up, and circling around high up in the heavens, made the fatal swoop for the chief, but just before he struck him with his talons, the concealed Indians let fly their arrows, and the Piasa fell dead, pierced through the heart.”⁸

A list of those who described or told the legend of Piasa Rock would contain the names of some of the greatest men in Mississippi Valley history. For example, Major Amos

⁷ Reuben Gold Thwaites (ed.), *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents* (73 vols., Cleveland, 1900), LIX, 139, 141.

⁸ John T. Kingston, “Early Western Days,” *Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, VII (1876), 318.

Stoddard, who received Upper Louisiana from the French in 1804, declared in his *Sketches of Louisiana* that the picture of the "*Piesa*" still remained in a good state of preservation.⁹ Henry Lewis painted a picture of Indians firing their guns at the Piasa in his panorama of the Mississippi in 1846. Most of the rock had been quarried away when Francis Parkman visited the spot in 1867 but the tradition still remained.

Many doubtless lament that more Indian nomenclature has not been preserved: they simply echo the feelings of Jacob Ferris when he visited Minnehaha Falls in the 1850's. In his book, *The Great West*, published in 1856, Ferris declares:

But some egotistical "cuss," who deserves flinging over the cataract for his impudence, has stuck the name of his own "ugly mug" upon the picturesque locality, and called it "Brown's Falls." Let the public all unite in the spicy protest of the indignant tourist, who, upon the banks of the Minnehaha, in view of the "Laughing Waters," and of "Brown's" desecration of them, thus proclaimed aloud: "In the name of common-sense, and all that is poetic and pleasing in human nature, let us solemnly protest against those desecrations which rob our beautiful lakes, rivers, and cascades, of their charming and significant Indian names; and no longer allow every Brown, Smith, Snooks, and Fizzle who happens to be the first to see some beautiful creation of Nature, with dull eyes which have no appreciation for any thing more sentimental than a lump of lead, a buffalo-hide, or a catfish, to perpetuate his cognomen at the expense of good taste and common honesty."¹⁰

Let us turn now to the Mississippi River as seen through the white man's eyes. Many colorful names are linked with the discovery and exploration of the Father of Waters. First on the scene was the swash-buckling De Soto who left

⁹ Major Amos Stoddard, *Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of Louisiana* (Philadelphia, 1812), 17.

¹⁰ Jacob Ferris, *The States and Territories of The Great West* . . . (New York, 1856), 264-5.

Havana in 1539 on the expedition which led to the discovery of the Lower Mississippi. Hacking his way through tangled woods, skirting treacherous bayous, fighting off the ravages of hunger and disease, warding off the stealthy assault of Indians, De Soto and his tattered army of Spanish conquistadors first viewed the Mississippi on May 8, 1541. A member of the expedition has left what is perhaps the earliest recorded description of the Mississippi:

The River was almost halfe a league broad. If a man stood still on the other side, it could not be discerned whether he were a man or no. The River was of great depth, and of a strong current; the water was alwaies muddie; there came downe the River continually many trees and timber.¹¹

Historic times on the Upper Mississippi begin with the advent of Joliet and Marquette on June 17, 1673. Joyfully Marquette exclaims:

Here we are, then, on this so renowned River [which] takes its rise in various lakes in the country of the Northern nations. It is narrow at the place where Miskous [Wisconsin] empties; its Current, which flows southward, is slow and gentle. To the right is a large Chain of very high Mountains, and to the left are beautiful lands; the stream is Divided by Islands.¹²

At the close of the French and Indian War, in 1762, France ceded New Orleans and the land west of the Mississippi to Spain. The following year France surrendered all claims to the land east of the Father of Waters to England. The first Englishman to describe the Mississippi, Jonathan Carver, has taken on a new, albeit unsavory, lease on life with the publication of *Northwest Passage* by Kenneth Roberts. A veteran of the French and Indian Wars and a loyal subject of George III, Carver set out from Boston in

¹¹ Edward Gaylord Bourne, *Spain in America, 1450-1580* (New York, 1906), 165-6.

¹² Thwaites, *Jesuit Relations* . . ., LIX, 109.

June, 1766, to explore the wilderness beyond the Great Lakes and acquire a "knowledge that promised to be so useful" to both his King and his country. On October 15, 1766, he "entered that extensive river the Mississippi" with a party of fur traders. He is the first man to use the present spelling of the word Mississippi. Paddling upstream, Carver wintered among the Sioux Indians on the Minnesota River. The following spring he returned to the Falls of St. Anthony to secure supplies to enable him to continue to Oregon. When these failed to arrive, he returned to Prairie du Chien, in May, 1767, and subsequently explored the "Chipeway" River country. Sailing to London, Carver published in 1778 his *Travels through the Interior Parts of North America*.¹³ Probably no book on America was more widely read during the eighteenth century; over thirty editions were published in four languages.

At the close of the Revolutionary War the Americans began to penetrate the wilderness George Rogers Clark had wrested from the British. In 1796 George Washington sent Andrew Ellicott (who had just surveyed the site and revised L'Enfant's designs for the national capital) to determine the boundary between the United States and Florida. Crossing the Alleghenies, the venturesome surveyor set out down the Ohio, making a careful study of the Lower Mississippi below the mouth of the Ohio. Modestly he writes: "To say any thing new respecting this river, whose magnitude and importance has for more than a century past, employed the pens of some of the ablest historians, philosophers and geographers of most nations in Europe, as well as in our own country, is not to be expected from me."¹⁴

Andrew Ellicott was a serious man and undoubtedly be-

¹³ J. Carver, Esq., *Travels Through the Interior Parts of North-America, in the Years 1766, 1767, and 1768* (London, 1778).

¹⁴ *The Journal of Andrew Ellicott* . . . (Philadelphia, 1803), 118.

lieved that too much had already been written about the Mississippi. If he could return today and scan a well-stocked library of Mississippiana he would gasp at the literature printed following the Louisiana Purchase. In a single decade of the nineteenth century more books concerning the Mississippi were produced than had been previously published. Soldier-explorers like Zebulon Pike or Stephen H. Long, artists like George Catlin and Henry Lewis, adventurers like G. C. Beltrami or Charles Augustus Murray, ornithologists like Audubon, and geologists like David Dale Owen, all have left a record of their westward wanderings. The Mississippi Valley was the land flowing with milk and honey to which hungry settlers swarmed, armed with one or more of the scores of gazetteers, emigrant guides, and maps that were being published. Zadok Cramer's *Navigator*, which went through many editions, showed the main channel and all the islands of the Ohio-Mississippi rivers. It also contained much first-hand information about the towns and countryside along the way.

The newspaper was the chief eye-witness and chronicler of river history. Study, if you will, the spread of newspapers down the Ohio and you have a perfect index to settlement. The first newspaper west of the Alleghenies was established at Pittsburgh in 1786. Cincinnati could boast its first newspaper in 1793, Louisville in 1807, and Shawneetown in 1818. The Mississippi River affords a similar barometer to newspaper history and population growth. The *Monitor* was printed at New Orleans in 1794, the *Mississippi Gazette* at Natchez in 1800, the *Missouri Gazette* at St. Louis in 1808, the *Miner's Journal* at Galena in 1828, the *Visitor* at Dubuque in 1836, and the *Minnesota Pioneer* at St. Paul in 1849. It is significant that the first newspapers in Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota were established on the Father of Waters.

These newspapers recorded more than a passing trip on the Mississippi: they chronicled the opening and closing of navigation, the daily arrival of steamboats, and the stage of the water. They bitterly editorialized on the ever-changing freight and passenger tariff rates and denounced cut-throat competition. Riots, explosions, accidents, excursions, fast trips, races, gambling, strikes; in fact, every element of life along the Great River was faithfully tabulated in the column devoted to river news.

Having indicated a few of the historian's eye-witnesses, let us take a voyage up the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico to Keokuk.

We are plowing through the Gulf of Mexico approaching the mouth of the Mississippi with Louis F. Tasistro, author of *Random Shots and Southern Breezes*, a book published by Harpers in 1842. "Soon after breakfast [*sic*] this morning," Tasistro relates, "we reached the Balize, when three of those watery pandemoniums, called high-pressure steamboats, started to meet us." Our impulsive narrator had always entertained a "very strong hatred" for that "self-willed machine" called a low-pressure steamboat, believing it "a most atrocious invention, and fit for nothing but to transport condemned souls across the Styx." It was the high-pressure steamboat, however, which particularly enraged him. With biting sarcasm Tasistro writes: "To see a huge, noisy monstrosity like this, breathing fire and smoke, snorting like a wounded elephant, trundling itself insolently up the Mississippi, and treating all one's feelings, fancies, and associations, past, present, and to come, with contempt, is intolerable, and ought to be forbidden by act of Congress."¹⁵

A. Levasseur, Lafayette's private secretary, visited the

¹⁵ Louis F. Tasistro, *Random Shots and Southern Breezes* . . . (2 vols., New York, 1842), I, 52.

United States in 1824-1825. Levasseur wrote a two-volume work in 1829 under the title, *Lafayette in America*. Of the Mississippi above the Balize Levasseur writes:

A certain degree of emotion at the sight of this noble stream cannot be repressed. Its rapid course and tremendous size seem rather to announce a conqueror. . . . Its waves repel . . . the waters of the sea and throw . . . upon the islands at its mouth, . . . thousands of prodigious trees, which after having lived for ages near the frozen pole, come here to die under the excessive heat of Mexico. . . . Enormous alligators, with their sinister looks and heavy motions, lying on trunks of floating trees, threaten the passenger, and seem about to dispute with him the entrance of the river.¹⁶

A little over one hundred miles of boggy waste land, whose dreary monotony impressed all travelers, separates the Balize from New Orleans. The reactions of J. H. Ingraham, who published *The South-West: By a Yankee* in 1835, are typical:

The low, flat, and interminable marshes, through the heart of which we are rapidly advancing—the ocean-like horizon, unrelieved by the slightest prominence—the sullen, turbid waves around us, which yield but slowly and heavily to the irresistible power of steam—all familiar characteristics of this river—would alone assure me I am on the Mississippi.¹⁷

As one proceeded upstream the land improved only slightly. The gloomy Tasistro saw for leagues about him “one uninterrupted range of cotton plantations, on which nothing animate is to be seen but slovenly negroes, with occasionally a few lean, dirty-looking hogs, tantalizing their appetites by nibbling at the dry turf.”¹⁸

The New Orleans water front, with its polyglot popula-

¹⁶ August Levasseur, *Lafayette in America 1824 and 1825* . . . (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1829), II, 98-9.

¹⁷ Joseph Holt Ingraham, *The South West: By a Yankee* . . . (2 vols., New York, 1835), I, 64-5.

¹⁸ Tasistro, *Random Shots* . . ., I, 53.

tion drawn from the four corners of the globe, served as a magnet for visitors. S. A. Ferrall believed the port of New Orleans presented the "most extraordinary medley of any port in the world." The Crescent City fairly pulsates with life in Ferrall's *A Ramble of Six Thousand Miles through the United States*, published in 1832:

Craft of every possible variety may be seen moored along the leveés, and the markets and adjacent streets [are] crowded with people of almost every nation in Europe, Africa, and America, who create a frightful confusion of tongues. A particular part of the quay is appropriated to each description of craft, and a penalty is enforced for any deviation from port regulations. The upper part is occupied with flat-boats, arks, peeroges [*sic*], rafts, keel-boats, canoes, and steam-boats; and below these are stationed schooners, cutters, brigs, ships, &c., in regular succession. The leveé is almost constantly filled with merchandise; and the scene of bustle and confusion . . . fully proves the large amount of commercial intercourse which this city enjoys.¹⁹

Few travelers have left a more dismal account of New Orleans than G. W. Featherstonhaugh, whose book, *Excursion through the Slave States*, appeared in 1844. Featherstonhaugh described the population of the Crescent City as a medley of Spaniards, Brazilians, West Indians, French Creoles, all generously intermixed with Negro stock. "I . . . never met one person without a cigar in his mouth," Featherstonhaugh asserts, "and certainly, taking it altogether, I never saw such a piratical-looking population before. Dark, swarthy, thin, whiskered, smoking, dirty, reckless-looking men; and filthy, ragged, screaming negroes and mulattoes." Featherstonhaugh remained in New Orleans only long enough to gratify his curiosity: "I took leave of New Orleans — a city where all agree in the worship of mammon, and where the undertaker looks with as much

¹⁹ S. A. Ferrall, Esq., *A Ramble of Six Thousand Miles through the United States of America* (London, 1832), 190-191.

periodical anxiety to the season of his harvest as the speculator in cotton does to his."²⁰

Were such vicious attacks on New Orleans in any way justified? Was Ole Rynning, the noted Norwegian observer, fair when he declared in 1838 that New Orleans harbored the "worst people in the United States"?²¹ The following genteel Sunday sport recorded by H. B. Fearon in his book, *Sketches of America*, may prove enlightening. Fearon was appalled by an advertisement of an "'extraordinary fight of *Furious Animals*'" expressly staged for the enjoyment of New Orleans citizens.

"1st Fight — A strong Attakapas Bull, attacked and subdued by six of the strongest dogs of the country.

2nd Fight — Six Bull-dogs against a Canadian Bear.

3rd Fight — A beautiful Tiger against a black Bear.

4th Fight — Twelve dogs against a strong and furious Opelousas Bull."

Lest these combats should fail to attract the sadistic New Orleans throng, the management offered the following additional inducements: "'If the Tiger is not vanquished in his fight with the Bear, he will be sent alone against the last Bull; and if the latter conquers all his enemies, several pieces of fire-works will be placed on his back, which will produce a very entertaining amusement.'"²²

New Orleans was not without its staunch defenders, however. The Italian adventurer Beltrami, who was aboard the *Virginia* in 1823 on the first steamboat voyage between St.

²⁰ G. W. Featherstonhaugh, *Excursion through the Slave States* . . . (New York, 1844), 140, 142.

²¹ Theodore C. Blegen (ed.), *Ole Rynning's True Account of America* [Travel and Description Series, Vol. I, Norwegian-American Historical Assn.] (Minneapolis, 1926), 98.

²² Henry Bradshaw Fearon, *Sketches of America. A Narrative of Five Thousand Miles through the Eastern and Western States of America* . . . (2nd edition, London, 1818), 274.

Louis and Fort Snelling, considered New Orleans the most "brilliant" American city he had seen. "It contains," he declared, "about forty-five thousand inhabitants; a prodigious population for a place which may be said to have just emerged from a swamp, and where the yellow fever and the natural insalubrity of the climate every year effect deplorable ravages." Beltrami was delighted with the "well-lighted" streets along which handsome carriages moved swiftly in every direction. "It is astonishing," the voluble Italian concluded, "that a place which may be said to be only just stepping out of its infancy, should already exhibit in the department of amusements, a number of those attractions which are displayed in the capitals of Europe. Horse-races, dramatic representations, concerts, balls, and gaming *academies* of every description . . . more in fact than exist in Paris."²³

New Orleans must always be remembered as the starting point of the greatest steamboat race in history — the contest between the *Robert E. Lee* and the *Natchez*.²⁴ Nor was this the only example of this favorite sport. One could hardly travel upstream from the Crescent City without engaging in several brushes with opposition boats. In Augustus E. Silliman's book — *A Gallop Among American Scenery* — we find the following:

It so happened that I left New Orleans, in the season when duels and yellow fever were becoming rife, in one of the fastest steamers out of that port. The usually monotonous voyage up was enlivened with an occasional race with some boat ahead, in which all the

²³ Giacomo Constantino Beltrami, *A Pilgrimage in Europe and America* . . . (2 vols., London, 1828), II, 523-4.

²⁴ For accounts of famous races, see E. W. Gould, *Fifty Years on the Mississippi* . . . (St. Louis, 1889), 536-8; Herbert and Edward Quick, *Mississippi Steamboatin'. A History of Steamboating on the Mississippi and Its Tributaries* (New York, 1926), 227-30. See also, William J. Petersen, *Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi* . . . (Iowa City, 1937), Chap. 43, for the race of the *Grey Eagle* and the *Itasca*.

spare bacon and hams among the freight were thrown into the furnaces to feed the boilers, while to save unnecessary trouble the firemen lashed down the safety valves. Indeed, in our case we might be said to be especially favored, for even in the absence of the excitement of the race we could always recur to the fact that we had four hundred kegs of gunpowder, marked "buckwheat," stowed in interesting proximity to the furnace, which at any instant might, by sending us among the stars, leave it a matter of doubt in our minds whether the boilers did or did not give way at exactly four hundred atmospheres.²⁵

From the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* of 1838 comes the following widely-quoted story.

A lady took her passage on board a steamboat at New Orleans to go to St. Louis, but hearing that the Captain intended running a race, declined going unless assurances were given that such would not be the case. The master pledged his honor to refrain from the contest, and the boat got under way; the rival boat pursuing soon after, neared him fast, and the passengers becoming excited, requested him to put on more steam, which was refused, for the reason above given. The lady was applied to, but would not yield. She was then requested to come on deck, and view the other boat, which at the time, was nearly along side, and fast gaining. Her feelings were immediately enlisted, and she too, urged an increase of speed, which was attempted, but not succeeding as well as his passengers desired they suggested that he should use bacon, to make the wood more inflammable. The answer was, that having pledged his word not to race, he had not provided himself with the article. "Never mind, Captain," said the lady, "you have some on board as freight, use it, my dear sir, use it — *I will pay all expenses if you beat that boat.*"²⁶

Alexander Mackay tells of a race between the *Niobe* and the *Lafayette* in his book, *The Western World*, published in 1849. Mackay was aboard the *Niobe*, bound upstream in pursuit of the *Lafayette*. The two boats were soon running

²⁵ Augustus E. Silliman, *A Gallop among American Scenery* . . . (New York, 1881), 274.

²⁶ *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser*, July 21, 1838.

along evenly under a full head of steam. According to Mackay,

. . . the negroes became almost frantic in their efforts to generate the steam; so much so that at one time I thought that from throwing wood into the furnaces, they would have taken to throwing in one another. But a short time before upwards of two hundred human beings had been hurried into eternity by the explosion of a boiler; but the fearful incident seemed for the moment to be forgotten, or its warnings to be disregarded, in the eagerness with which passengers and crew pressed forward to witness the race. I must confess I yielded to the infection, and was as anxious a spectator of the contest as any on board. There were a few timid elderly gentlemen and ladies who kept aloof; but with this exception, the captain of each boat had the moral strength of his cargo with him. For many minutes the two vessels kept neck and neck, and so close to each other, that an explosion on board either would have calamitously affected the other.²⁷

The captain of the *Niobe* finally resorted to the ruse of forcing the *Lafayette* either to break her speed or run upon a snag. Being thus fairly jockeyed out of her position, the *Lafayette* dropped astern and the *Niobe* won the race. "There are certainly laws against this species of racing," Mackay declared, "but the Mississippi runs through so many jurisdictions that it is not easy to put them in force. Besides, it was evident to me, from what I then saw, that, in most cases, passengers and crew are equally *participes criminis*."²⁸

Scenic descriptions of the Sugar Coast, rather than steamboat races, employed the pens of most travelers. When J. H. Ingraham left the Crescent City he was thrilled by the "dense forest of masts" through which his steamboat glided. Stately sugar plantations unfolded in a never-ending panorama.

²⁷ Alex. Mackay, Esq., *The Western World; or, Travels in the United States in 1846-47* . . . (3 vols., London, 1849), III, 48-9.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 50.

The banks are lined and ornamented with elegant mansions, displaying, in their richly adorned grounds, the wealth and taste of their possessors; while the river now moving onward like a golden flood, reflecting the mellow rays of the setting sun, is full of life. Vessels of every size are gliding in all directions over its waveless bosom, while graceful skiffs dart merrily about like white-winged birds. Huge steamers are dashing and thundering by, leaving long trains of wreathing smoke in their rear. Carriages filled with ladies and attended by gallant horsemen, enliven the smoothe road along the Levee; while the green banks of the Levee itself are covered with gay promenaders. A glimpse through the trees now and then, as we move rapidly past the numerous villas, detects the piazzas, filled with the young, beautiful, and aged of the family, enjoying the rich beauty of the evening.

Night did not blot out the spell of the Sugar Coast: even Ingraham's cold Yankee blood warmed to the beauties about him as the steamboat puffed proudly upstream.

The moon rides high in the east, while the western star hangs trembling in the path of the sun. Innumerable lights twinkle along the shores, or flash out from some vessel as we glide rapidly past. How exhilarating to be upon the water by moonlight! . . . Quiet and romance are lost in sublimity, if not in grandeur. The great noise of rushing-waters — the deep-toned booming of the steamer — the fearful rapidity with which we are borne past the half-observed objects on shore and in the stream — the huge columns of black smoke rolling from the mouths of the gigantic chimneys, and spangled with showers of sparks, flying like trains of meteors shooting through the air; while a proud consciousness of the power of the dark hull beneath your feet, which plunges, thundering onward . . . adds to the majesty and wonder of the time.²⁹

Steamboats plying between New Orleans and St. Louis were usually the largest and most finely appointed on "Western Waters," as the Mississippi River system was commonly called. The denser population, the rich cargoes which they carried from the Upper Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Ohio, together with the deep channel below

²⁹ Ingraham, *The South West* . . ., I, 245-7.

Cairo, all combined to make Lower Mississippi steamboating profitable. Here is J. L. Peyton's description of a Lower Mississippi steamboat as recorded in his book, *Over the Alleghanies*.

The saloon was decorated in a tasteful and expensive manner, and furnished with Brussels carpets, ornamented lamps, silk curtains, pianos, sofas, chairs, and French mirrors, in fact a profusion of gilding, glass and mahogany. Plenty of books of a sensational description were circulated among the passengers by a Connecticut boy, who had absconded from his home the year before, as he said, to fabricate his own fortunes. There were card and loo tables, and numerous other appliances for passing the time, not only agreeably, but improvingly. All kinds of "American drinks," as they are called, were dispensed from the bar, the river furnished excellent fish, and the market towns on the western bank, poultry, fresh meat and vegetables. The accommodations were on such an extensive scale, that there were separate apartments for the ladies with female servants to attend them; also a private saloon or parlour in which gentlemen were not permitted to intrude unless specially invited by the fair occupants. In this society, which was as polite, well dressed and well instructed as you would find in any portion of the world, I anticipated a delightful passage.³⁰

As we proceed upstream let us take an inventory of our fellow passengers. In his book, *A Journey Through Texas*, Frederick Law Olmstead describes the life of passengers aboard the steamboat *Sultana* in the decade before the Civil War.

Day after day, you sit down to the same table with the same company, changing slightly its faces as guests come and go. . . . The life, especially in the tame Mississippi scenery, is monotonous, but . . . the monotony is of a kind you are not sorry to experience once in a lifetime. With long sleeps, necessitated by nocturnal interruptions from landings and woodings, long meals, long up and down walks, and long conversations, duly interlarded with letters and books, time passes, and space. With the Southern passengers,

³⁰ John Lewis Peyton, *Over the Alleghanies and Across the Prairies* . . . (London, 1869), 43-4.

books are a small resource, *cards* fill every vacuum. Several times we were expostulated with, and by several persons inquiries were made, with deep curiosity, as to how the deuce we possibly managed to pass our time, always refusing to join in a game of poker, which was the only comprehensible method of steaming along. The card parties, begun after tea, frequently broke up only at dawn of day, and loud and vehement disputes, as to this or that, occupied not only the players, but, per force, the adjacent sleepers. Much money was lost and won with more or less gaiety or bitterness, and whatever pigeons were on board were duly plucked and left to shiver.³¹

J. L. Peyton found a motley array of pioneers aboard his boat.

These were the men of the West *par excellence*, those silent, gloomy men who have so often attracted the notice of the observant foreigner, and who are generally absorbed with their business and tobacco, pushing one, chewing the other. These are the men who . . . eat their meals with silent energy and remarkable dispatch. During the entire day, they left the saloon to the guardianship of the ladies, adjourning to the deck to pass their time among bales and boxes. . . . Such are the frontier men of the West — men full of the quick, hard intelligence of the New Englander, and his indomitable pluck and perseverance . . . men of deeds rather than of words. They care little for the courtesies of life, and are only intent upon their pursuits, which they follow with industry, intelligence, and self-confidence, and in which they rarely fail. Though of unprepossessing social habits, with little education, they preserve a manly dignity in their character and conduct, which cannot fail to elicit our respect. Unquestionably, they are a little uncouth in their manners and appearance, but they have the spirit and enterprise necessary to subdue a new country. Any other men would be out of place on the frontier. Of such materials only are a free State and a great country made.³²

Charles Dickens encountered just such a resourceful western character bound for the mineral region of Missouri. "He carries the village — that is to be — with him; a few

³¹ Frederick Law Olmstead, *A Journey through Texas* . . . (New York, 1860), 38-9.

³² Peyton, *Over the Alleghanies* . . . , 60-62.

frame-cottages, and an apparatus for smelting the coppery. He carries its people, too. They are partly American, and partly Irish, and herd together on the lower deck, where they amused themselves last evening, till the night was pretty far advanced, by alternately firing off pistols and singing hymns.’’³³

In his book, *Wanderings of a Vagabond*, John Morris reveals the varied life aboard a steamboat.

Passengers were privileged to amuse themselves just as they pleased, so long as they did not infringe upon the rights of others, or interfere in any respect with the duties of the officers or crew. This latitude sometimes led to some rather strong contrasts; for instance, there might frequently be seen in the ladies’ cabin a group of the godly praying and singing psalms, while in the dining-saloon, from which the tables had been removed, another party were [*sic*] dancing merrily to the music of a fiddle, while farther along, in the social hall, might be heard the loud laughter of jolly carousers around the drinking bar, and occasionally chiming in with the sound of the revelry, the rattling of money and checks, and the sound of voices at the card-tables.³⁴

The daily routine of a woman passenger was not omitted from Harriet Martineau’s journal.

We rose at five or a little later, the early morning being delicious. Breakfast was ready at seven, and after it I apparently went to my stateroom for the morning. . . . I took no notice of the summons to luncheon at eleven, and found that dinner, at half past one, came far too soon. We all thought it our duty to be sociable in the afternoon, and therefore, took our seats in the gallery on the other side of the boat, where we were daily introduced to members of our society who before were strangers, and spent two or three hours in conversation . . . far from lively, consisting chiefly of complaints of the heat or the glare; of the children or of the dulness of the river; varied by mutual interrogation about where everybody was

³³ Charles Dickens, *American Notes for General Circulation* (Boston, 1867), 82.

³⁴ John Morris [pseud. for John O’Connor], *Wanderings of a Vagabond. An Autobiography* (New York, 1873), 422-3.

going. . . . When the heat began to decline, we went to the hurricane deck . . . and watched the glories of the night, till the deck passengers appeared with their blankets and compelled us to go down.

The indifference of most women to the scenery surprised Miss Martineau. All morning the women "sat in their own cabin, working collars, netting purses, or doing nothing; all the evening they amused themselves in the other cabin dancing or talking. And such scenery as we were passing! I was in perpetual amazement that, with all that has been said of the grandeur of this mighty river, so little testimony has been borne of its beauty."³⁵

Fredrika Bremer tells of a quiet journey on the *Asia* with the "uneasy companionship" of four-and-twenty children ranging in age from a few months to ten years. She thought herself "well-off if only a third of the number were not crying at once. There were also some passengers of the second or third sort, ladies who smoked their pipes and blew their noses in their fingers, and then came and asked how one liked America. Ugh! There are no greater contrasts than exist between the cultivated and the uncultivated ladies of this country."³⁶

Charles Dickens slumbered uneasily as the "hoarse, sullen" boat steamed on, "venting at every revolution of the paddles a loud, high-pressure blast."³⁷ Harriet Martineau complained of squawling children and the noise of trampling feet overhead. "Many of the deck passengers," she records, "had to sleep in the open air, on the hurricane deck, from their being no room for them below; and, till

³⁵ Harriet Martineau, *Retrospect of Western Travel* (2 vols., London, 1838), II, 10-11.

³⁶ Frederika Bremer, *The Homes of the New World* (2 vols., New York, 1853), II, 96-7.

³⁷ Dickens, *American Notes* . . ., 83.

they had settled themselves, sleep was out of the question for those whose staterooms were immediately beneath.”³⁸

Forced to sleep on the cabin floor, William Ferguson was still tired when awakened in the morning.

I do believe, if we had got berths we should have gone to bed at breakfast time, we were so tired. I fell asleep several times during the forenoon; and no sooner was tea over at seven, than, stretched on three chairs, I went off sound as a top. About ten, beds were made on the floor. Such a scene! Through the whole length of the saloon, a number of chairs were placed upside down in a row, and against the slope formed by the inverted backs mattresses were placed. The turn-up of the mattresses at one end, against the chair, was all the pillow there was. Thin sheets were spread over them, two sheets to three mattresses. It was a huge joint-stock sleeping company,—not at all to our taste. It might be said to be one continuous bed, with fifty occupants. . . . There was not much rest in it, and one rose satisfied that they had a spine, for the mattress was thin, and the floor hard.³⁹

On one occasion, in the 1840's, a crowded packet arrived at the New Orleans levee with an immense throng of Mardi Gras visitors, many of whom had been picked up at Natchez, Vidalia, and intermediate landings. A New Orleans paper declared that it had been utterly impossible for all to secure sleeping accommodations. The berths were all occupied at an early hour, many being made to “carry double” on this occasion, and the cabin floor was piled deep with passengers.

When the card tables broke up, there remained just ten who could find lodging room no where. They had left off “bragging” and “poking,” and now peeped into every state room, and tumbled around in every corner of the cabin and social hall, but not a space of four feet by six inches could they find anywhere; to be useful in some manner, they constituted themselves a mysterious committee, or grand “Council of Ten,” for the purpose of guard-

³⁸ Martineau, *Retrospect of Western Travel*, II, 8-9.

³⁹ William Ferguson, *America by River and Rail* . . . (London, 1856), 291-2.

ing the slumbers of those who had gone to bed. Striking their sticks upon the cabin floor, and making a prodigious clatter, they told them all to go to sleep, giving, at the same time, serious assurances that *nobody should be disturbed*.

One of these "Watchmen of the night" created a tremendous racket by slapping his cane lengthwise against a state-room door. People lifted their heads up all around the cabin, and the occupants of the state rooms opened their doors.

"What is the matter?" inquired a personage in a night cap.

"Nothing! nothing!" said the watchman; "I only wish to tell you to go to sleep — *nobody shall disturb you*."

Muttering many maledictions, the passengers composed themselves again; but in a few moments another outrageous clatter arose.

"What is the matter?" inquired several voices. "What is the meaning of this?"

"Let me beg of you all to compose yourselves," said the watchman, in a tone as loud as his lungs could reach. "Go to sleep, and *nobody shall disturb you*."

One or two more ludicrous experiments of the same nature followed, and then a recumbent individual demanded to know "What in thunder was the meaning of the rumpus?"

"Don't be uneasy," exclaimed the watchman; "we are here on duty, and wish you to keep yourselves comfortable. Shut up and go to sleep — *nobody will disturb you!*"

The Council of Ten walked up and down among the sleepers upon the floor, planting their sticks indiscriminately every where, and eliciting every sort of nocturnal [*sic*] sounds from the oblivious people around, as if sheep, calves, cats, dogs, &c. were breathing their innocent ejaculations of unhappiness.

"What do I *want*?" said the watchman.

"Yes, sir; what do you want?"

"I want you, my friend, to go to sleep; I am here on guard, and *nobody shall disturb you*."

"We shan't be disturbed, eh?"

"You shan't."

"I'd like to know what you call disturbance, stranger. Can't you go to bed and be quiet?"

Another of the council found the pole with which the clerk measured wood, and picking out a fat purse individual snoring away

upon the floor, straightway commenced "stirring him up" pricking him in the side.

"What's the matter *now*?" said the fat man, half rising upon his right elbow, while with his left hand he shaded his eyes and peered into the face of the disturber with earnest scrutiny.

"Nothing," said the mad wag. "I was only going to tell you not to disturb yourself. Go to sleep — I mean nothing."

"*Nothing!* you be d——d. Punch a man in the ribs with a long pole, and call that *nothing*. Why don't you go to bed?"

"I'm going — don't disturb yourself." After hearing this consoling advice, the fat man turned over on his side and again composed himself to sleep.

Silence now reigned for the space of some ten minutes, but it was not destined to be of long continuance; for one of the merry wights caught a glimpse of the breakfast bell quietly resting on the table. This was just the thing and *ting-a-ling! ting-a-ling!* soon resounded from one end of the boat to the other.

Everybody jumped from bed, anxious to be prepared early for the great festival of the Twenty-second; and no sooner were a sufficient number of berths vacated than the mischievous "Council of Ten" quietly took them for their own special purposes and were soon enjoying a freshening morning nap.⁴⁰

Churning up the muddy current past Donaldsonville, Plaquemine, Baton Rouge, and Bayou Sara, our steamboat makes a short stop at Angola to discharge freight and passengers for the Red River. The boat has stopped frequently at woodyards along the way, much time being lost during the process of wooding up. At Natchez, 269 miles above New Orleans, we pause for a short visit. Settled by the French in 1729, Natchez could boast almost 5,000 inhabitants when Beltrami arrived in 1823. Cotton was the chief export commodity and three-masted ocean-going vessels were regular visitors.

Natchez was divided into two parts — Natchez-under-the-

⁴⁰ *The Spirit of the Times*, XIV (April 27, 1844), 106. The writer is indebted to Franklin J. Meine of Chicago for the generous use of his file of this rare and valuable magazine.

Hill and Natchez-on-the-Hill. So vile a place was Natchez-under-the-Hill that many of the passengers were afraid to pass through it in order to visit the respectable section on the green-crested bluff. And well might they hesitate. When A. E. Silliman stepped down the gangplank he found Natchez a place "where the bowie-knife and pistol are the arbiters in all disputes, where a pack of cards is the only Bible, and the demand, 'Stranger, will you drink or fight?' was the first salutation."⁴¹ Another visitor described the town as a "land of fevers, alligators, niggers, and cotton bales . . . where to refuse grog before breakfast would degrade you below the brute creation . . . where bears, the size of young jack-asses, are fondled in lieu of pet dogs; and knives, the length of a barber's pole, usurp the place of toothpicks."⁴² Small wonder that Ingraham should find Natchez celebrated "in wretched rhyme and viler story."⁴³

Even the Sabbath did not arrest the bacchanalian revels of the highly-rouged females, sailors, Kentucky boatmen, Negroes, Negresses, and mulattoes encountered on the streets. H. B. Fearon had never before encountered such a degree of "open profligacy" in the United States. It was the traffic in human lives, however, that left an indelible impression on Fearon. Observing a great many Negroes, particularly females, aboard some flatboats, Fearon concluded that they were emigrants. Investigation proved that fourteen of the twenty-five flats were freighted with human beings for sale. According to Fearon "They had been collected in the several States by slave-dealers, and shipped from Kentucky for a market. They were dressed up to the

⁴¹ Silliman, *A Gallop Among American Scenery* . . ., 274

⁴² Walter Blair and Franklin J. Meine, *Mike Fink: King of Mississippi Keelboatmen* (New York, 1933), 56.

⁴³ Ingraham, *The South West* . . ., II, 19.

best advantage, on the same principle that jockeys do horses upon sale."⁴⁴

Leaving pestilential Natchez, our steamboat proceeds to Vicksburg, 105 miles upstream. When James Stuart visited Vicksburg in the 1830's he discovered a "very thriving" city located on the "side of a hill."⁴⁵ Most travelers after 1835 listened with awe to the story of how Vicksburg drove the gamblers from its gates: five men were hanged in a mass execution before the hordes of blacklegs departed. We of today think of the heroic siege and defense of Vicksburg during the Civil War: it was around Vicksburg's famous Walnut Hills that the remorseless Ulysses S. Grant forged his ring of steel that split the Confederacy in twain and doomed the cause of the South.

Seventy miles above Vicksburg our steamboat passes the Louisiana-Arkansas state line. Brief stops are made at Greenville and Arkansas City. The exploits of Joliet and Marquette are recalled as the boat glides past the mouth of the Arkansas River. Lovely Helena, nestled at the foot of Crowleys Ridge, soon disappears from view. Eighty miles farther on, and picturesque Memphis is reached, situated on the fourth Chickasaw Bluff, just below the mouth of Wolf River.

Memphis is famous in song and story. Here, in historic times, De Soto first viewed the Mississippi. Here Fort Assumption was erected by the French two centuries ago to protect the country from the warlike Chickasaw. Here, in modern times, William C. Handy composed his "Beale Street Blues."

When Beltrami reached Memphis in 1823 he described it as an "inconsiderable village" displaying "nothing of the

⁴⁴ Fearon, *Sketches of America* . . . , 268.

⁴⁵ James Stuart, Esq., *Three Years in North America* (2 vols., Edinburgh, 1833), II, 265.

ancient, nor the progress of the modern.”⁴⁶ Despite the fact that inundations annually threatened to destroy her, Memphis had doubled in size since coming into the possession of the United States. Conclin’s *New River Guide*, published in 1853, tells of the immense quantities of cotton carted into Memphis, the principal mart and shipping point for the interior. Fully 120,000 bales of cotton were shipped from Memphis annually. In the early fifties the town contained “six churches, an academy, two medical colleges, a number of private schools, a large number of stores, some of them doing an extensive business, an office of the Magnetic Telegraph, and a population of 12,000.”⁴⁷

When Archibald Sutter visited Memphis in 1881 he formed a poor opinion of the wretched town with its 33,593 inhabitants. “Memphis does not look healthy,” Sutter notes, “and it is the first town I have seen in America with a broken-down appearance. Many windows were cracked, the slates and shingles are half stripped off the houses, and the brick houses look green and mouldy like Stilton cheese.”⁴⁸

Just as Vicksburg must always be remembered for its heroic siege, so Memphis must forever be associated with the worst marine disaster on inland waters:—1,450 lives were lost when the steamboat *Sultana* exploded seven miles above the town. Most of the victims were exchanged Union prisoners who were returning home at the close of the Civil War. Only the wreck of the *Titanic* exceeded this catastrophe in the number of lives lost.

Of steamboat disasters, Memphis had more than its share. Two incidents will suffice. In June of 1858, the steamboat *Pennsylvania* exploded her boiler while wooding

⁴⁶ Beltrami, *Pilgrimage to America* . . . , II, 503-504.

⁴⁷ Conclin’s *New River Guide* . . . (Cincinnati, 1853), 94.

⁴⁸ Archibald Sutter, *American Notes 1881* (Edinburgh, 1882), 61.

up at Ship Island, sixty miles below Memphis. Among the three hundred human beings who perished in the fearful disaster was Henry Clemens, the younger brother of Samuel Clemens. Mark Twain fairly worshipped the ground on which Henry stood. To his sister Mollie the grief-stricken Clemens wrote:

Henry was asleep — was blown up — then fell back on the hot boilers, and I suppose that rubbish fell on him, for he is injured internally. He got into the water and swam to shore, and got into the flatboat with the other survivors. He had nothing on but his wet shirt, and he lay there burning up with a southern sun and freezing in the wind till the Kate Frisbee came along. His wounds were not dressed till he got to Memphis, 15 hours after the explosion. He was senseless and motionless for 12 hours after that. But may God bless Memphis, the noblest city on the face of the earth. She has done her duty by these poor afflicted creatures — especially Henry, for he has had five — aye, ten, fifteen, *twenty* times the care and attention that any one else has had. Dr. Peyton, the best physician in Memphis (he is exactly like the portraits of Webster,) sat by him for 36 hours. There are 32 scalded men in that room, and you would know Dr. Peyton better than I can describe him, if you could follow him around and hear each man murmur as he passes — “May the God of Heaven bless you, Doctor!” The ladies have done well, too. Our second Mate, a handsome, noble hearted young fellow, will die. Yesterday a beautiful girl of 15 stooped timidly down by his side and handed him a pretty bouquet. The poor suffering boy’s eyes kindled, his lips quivered out a gentle “God bless you, Miss,” and he burst into tears. He made them write her name on a card for him, that he might not forget it.⁴⁹

Simon Ferrall records a different scene in his book, *A Ramble of Six Thousand Miles Through the United States*, printed in 1832. The steamboat on which he was traveling had just reached the Memphis levee, and Ferrall and a number of fellow passengers were regaling themselves with a substantial breakfast. All at once a boiler exploded with

⁴⁹ Albert Bigelow Paine (ed.), *Mark Twain’s Letters* (2 vols., New York, 1917), I, 41.

terrific force, throwing passengers and crew in wild confusion. As Ferrall relates,

Between fifty and sixty persons were killed and wounded. The scene was the most horrifying that can be imagined — the dead were shattered to pieces, covering the decks with blood; and the dying suffered the most excruciating tortures, being scalded from head to foot. Many died within the hour; whilst others lingered until evening, shrieking in the most piteous manner. The persons assembled on shore displayed the most disgusting want of sympathy; and most of the gentlemen passengers took care to secure their luggage before rendering any assistance to the unfortunates.

The lone physician aboard attended with “unremitting care on all the wounded without distinction. A collection was made by the cabin passengers, for the surviving sufferers. The wretch who furnished oil on the occasion, hearing of the collection, had the conscience to make a charge of sixty dollars, when the quantity furnished could not possibly have amounted to a third of that sum.”⁵⁰

The callous indifference of the Americans to human suffering and loss of life is attested by innumerable instances. Fredrika Bremer, after whom Bremer County in Iowa is named, tells of a sturdy Westerner standing on the shore of the Mississippi when a steamboat exploded with terrific force, throwing mangled bodies in all directions. Thrilled by the sight the pioneer exclaimed: “By God! the Americans are a great people!” Such a remark, Miss Bremer relates, was a “common exclamation in the Great West on every occasion.”⁵¹

Above Memphis our steamboat winds its way through a fertile land nearly on a dead level with the river. Beautiful bluffs occasionally break the monotony of the scene. Archi-

⁵⁰ Ferrall, *A Ramble of Six Thousand Miles* . . ., 219-20.

⁵¹ Bremer, *Homes of the New World*, II, 110-111.

bald Sutter saw many ill-built, wooden farmhouses with untidy enclosures. Negroes were always in evidence. According to Sutter: "The children are half naked, and are to be envied; for clothes feel an abomination now. . . . Ice is essential to existence, and an umbrella and a fan are the only clothing necessary."⁵²

Just above Fulton, Tennessee, stands the towering bluff from which Fort Pillow dominated the Mississippi during the Civil War. Twenty-five miles farther on, the steamboat glides past Reelfoot Lake, formed by the New Madrid earthquake in 1811. Soon New Madrid itself appears, hidden away behind its mighty levee in mortal fear of floods. Hickman, Columbus, Belmont, Wickliffe; then the mouth of the Ohio comes in view. Our gallant steamboat has churned 975 miles upstream from New Orleans.

For some travelers the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi was the journey's end; for virtually all it meant the crossroads of their western wanderings. At Cairo immigrants who came down the Ohio could either continue down the Mississippi to New Orleans, ascend the Upper Mississippi or Missouri rivers, or cross over into Missouri. Few there were who elected to sojourn at Cairo. The reason is not difficult to find.

Charles Dickens is usually singled out as one of those many unhappy Englishmen who speculated to their sorrow in Cairo real estate. In his *American Notes* Dickens gives a description of Cairo that can scarcely be called flattering.

At length, upon the morning of the third day, we arrived at a spot so much more desolate than any we had yet beheld, that the forlornest places we had passed were, in comparison with it, full of interest. At the junction of the two rivers, on ground so flat and low and marshy, that at certain seasons of the year it is inundated to the house-tops, lies a breeding-place of fever, ague, and death;

⁵² Sutter, *American Notes* 1881, 61.

vaunted in England as a mine of Golden Hope, and speculated in, on the faith of monstrous representations, to many people's ruin. A dismal swamp, on which the half-built houses rot away; cleared here and there for the space of a few yards; and teeming, then, with rank, unwholesome vegetation, in whose baleful shade the wretched wanderers who are tempted hither droop, and die, and lay their bones; the hateful Mississippi circling and eddying before it, and turning off upon its southern course, a slimy monster hideous to behold; a hotbed of disease, an ugly sepulchre, a grave uncheered by any gleam of promise; a place without one single quality, in earth or air or water, to commend it; such is this dismal Cairo.⁵³

Even though this description may be prejudiced, two score travelers could be called upon to sustain the indictment. Edmund Flagg described the confluence of the Ohio with the Mississippi as the "dullest, dreariest, most uninviting region imaginable."⁵⁴ John Morris resented the few moments that his boat spent at "that classic mud-hole denominated Cairo."⁵⁵ J. L. Peyton was equally uncompimentary in his book, *Over the Alleghanies*:

A word as to Cairo. It is a miserable — the most miserable place I ever saw . . . an abominable sink of filth, fever and disease . . . log huts, erected upon boat bottoms, were anchored or secured by iron cables to the trunks of trees, as a security against an unexpected rise in the river, and a trip towards the gulf. Surrounded by the stumps of trees which had been recently felled, and which were now corded on the river banks, ready for passing steamers, the appearance of these log cabins was solitary and forlorn to the last degree.⁵⁶

Leaving Cairo sitting in its marshy frog pond, we steam once more up the Mississippi toward St. Louis, distant 180

⁵³ Dickens, *American Notes* . . ., 88.

⁵⁴ [Edmund Flagg], *The Far West: or, a Tour Beyond the Mountains* . . . (2 vols., New York, 1838), I, 48.

⁵⁵ Morris, *Wanderings of a Vagabond*.

⁵⁶ Peyton, *Over the Alleghanies* . . ., 119.

miles. In his book, *Three Years in North America*, James Stuart described the fine French plantations and rich countryside. Imposing bluffs on the western shore delighted the eye, Cape Girardeau making a particularly neat appearance. Our steamboat experiences considerable difficulty ascending the swiftly flowing Mississippi at Hanging-Dog Island and Grand Tower, but she finally squirms through. At the mouth of the Kaskaskia River, ninety miles above the Ohio, we reach a fruitful region, known as the American Bottoms, which invariably won the praise of travelers. In 1838 the *Missouri Argus* described this area as one of the "most fertile bodies of land in the world." "This tract," our St. Louis editor asserts, ". . . commences near Alton, Illinois, and extends along the Mississippi river to the mouth of the Kaskaskia, with a width of from two to six miles. . . . No soil can exceed this in point of fertility, many parts of it having been under cultivation for more than a century without the least apparent deterioration."⁵⁷

Historic Ste. Genevieve is located a short distance above the mouth of the Kaskaskia River on the western shore. Founded in 1735, Ste. Genevieve claims to be the oldest white settlement west of the Mississippi in the Louisiana Purchase. Six hours more and our boat noses gently into the St. Louis levee.

St. Louis was already old when the first steamboat arrived in 1817. Founded as a trading post by Pierre Laclede Liguist in 1764, St. Louis is rich in historic lore. During the American Revolution it was St. Louis that beat off a superior force of British and their Indian allies. In 1804 her citizens witnessed the transfer of Upper Louisiana to the United States. In 1806 they welcomed Zebulon M. Pike upon his return from the Upper Mississippi; and they

⁵⁷ St. Louis *Missouri Argus*, May 24, 1838. Reprinted in *Missouri Historical Review*, XXVII (July, 1933), 382.

cheered Lewis and Clark when those two trail-blazers returned from their conquest of the Missouri. After 1840 steamboats lined the St. Louis levee for more than a mile — twenty-three steamboats were destroyed in the great St. Louis fire of 1849. From St. Louis went the freight and passengers which helped to settle the Upper Mississippi and Des Moines valleys.

Let us set out once more on an Upper Mississippi steamboat for Keokuk — 180 miles distant. The most outstanding feature of the entire journey is the confluence of the Missouri with the Mississippi, about sixteen miles above St. Louis. Those passengers who have wondered how the Lower Mississippi could be so dirty have their question answered when they see the Big Muddy oozing into the clear current of the Father of Waters.

Cabin passengers were appalled at the muddy liquid through which their boat glided. From the advent of De Soto to the opening of white settlement, or long before deforestation and soil cultivation were blamed, the muddy Mississippi had been the subject of frequent comment. Thus, Captain Philip Pittman, who published a thick volume on the Lower Mississippi in 1770, filled a half-pint tumbler with water and “found a sediment of two inches of slime.” Notwithstanding this, Pittman considered the water “extremely wholesome and well tasted, and very cool in the hottest seasons of the year.”⁵⁸

Later travelers left similar accounts. A Frenchman declared the waters of the Lower Mississippi were the healthiest in the world. Old settlers told Zadok Cramer the Mississippi contained “medicinal qualities” that “performed cures for most cutaneous diseases, operating on some as a powerful cathartick, and as a purifier of the blood” for

⁵⁸ Captain Philip Pittman, *The Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi* . . . (reprint of 1770 edition, Cleveland, 1906), 34-5.

many pioneers.⁵⁹ In 1829 Caleb Atwater observed that citizens of St. Louis preferred the "dirty water of the Mississippi" to spring water, using it "for drink and culinary purposes." This same eye-witness found old settlers "almost superstitious about this water, believing that while they use it, they will enjoy their health."⁶⁰ "We drank the muddy water of this river while we were upon it," Charles Dickens records. "It is considered wholesome by the natives, and is something more opaque than gruel. I have seen water like it at the Filter shops, but nowhere else."⁶¹

On a hot July day in the year 1840, Mrs. Eliza Steele boarded a steamboat bound downstream from St. Louis. The thermometer on board the boat stood at 96° and Mrs. Steele and the other occupants of the ladies' cabin were hard put to keep comfortable. In her book, *A Summer Journey in the West*, Mrs. Steele records:

As thirsty as I was, I hesitated to drink the thick muddy water, for while standing in our tumblers, a sediment is precipitated of half an inch. Oh how I longed for a draught of cool spring water, or a lump of Rockland lake ice! While drinking, one of the ladies advanced for the same purpose. "Dear me! what insipid water!" she said, "it has been standing too long. I like it right thick." I looked at her in surprise. "Do you prefer it muddy to clear?" I asked. "Certainly I do," she replied, "I like the sweet clayey taste, and when it settles it is insipid. Here Juno!" calling to the black chambermaid who was busy ironing, "get me some water fresh out of the river, with the true Mississippi relish."⁶²

When Mark Twain returned to the Mississippi after an

⁵⁹ [Zadok Cramer], *The Navigator: Containing Directions for Navigating the Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers* . . . (7th ed., Pittsburgh, 1811), 149.

⁶⁰ Caleb Atwater, *Remarks Made on a Tour to Prairie du Chien; Thence to Washington City in 1829* (Columbus, Ohio, 1831), 44.

⁶¹ Dickens, *American Notes* . . . , 89.

⁶² Mrs. [Eliza R.] Steele, *A Summer Journey in the West* (New York, 1841), 210-11.

absence of twenty years he found at least one thing had not changed — the water's mulatto complexion. Since Twain undoubtedly heard many tall tales about the muddy Mississippi, it is not surprising that he should tell his own story. According to Twain:

It comes out of the turbulent, bank-caving Missouri, and every tumblerful of it holds nearly an acre of land in solution. I got this fact from the bishop of the diocese. If you will let your glass stand half an hour, you can separate the land from the water as easy as Genesis; and then you will find them both good: the one good to eat, the other good to drink. The land is very nourishing, the water is thoroughly wholesome. The one appeases hunger; the other, thirst. But the natives do not take them separately, but together, as nature mixed them. When they find an inch of mud in the bottom of a glass, they stir it up, and then take the draught as they would gruel. It is difficult for a stranger to get use to this batter, but once used to it he will prefer it to water. This is really the case. It is good for steamboating, and good to drink; but it is worthless for all other purposes, except baptizing.⁶³

Once above the mouth of the Missouri, steamboat passengers had clearer water but invariably poorer steamboats, at least before 1850. Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Cunynghame, who wrote a book entitled, *A Glimpse of the Great Western Republic*, was annoyed at accommodations aboard the *Lucy Bertram*, which plied between St. Louis and Keokuk. Cunynghame found the *Lucy Bertram* staterooms had no basins or other washing apparatus. Passengers were supposed to use a common washroom near the paddle box fitted up with a wooden scullery sink. Three small tin basins were placed near this trough and two jack-towels stretched on rollers hung nearby.

Here, all the passengers, amounting to fifty or more, the officers of the ship, the black stewards and waiters, washed themselves *slightly*, and had the choice of either of the two towels. Moreover,

⁶³ Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*, 252.

through the benevolent provision of the owners of the "Lucy Bertram," a hair-brush and comb, and one tooth-brush also, were not omitted, and were daily in frequent requisition by both passengers and crew on board this vessel, and during the morning were kindly passed from hand to hand. Nor did I escape the glances of offended democracy for the aristocratic preference of my own towel, sponge, and brushes.⁶⁴

It should be pointed out that the furnishings of the *Lucy Bertram* were by no means the worst on the Upper Mississippi. As for the public toothbrush attached to a brass chain above the sink, these were not infrequently seen in hotels and aboard steamboats throughout the West.

Churning boldly up the Mississippi, our steamboat passes Clarksville, Louisiana, Hannibal, and Quincy, arriving at Keokuk in time to catch a packet up the Des Moines River. We are particularly glad not to stay over in Keokuk; at least the Keokuk that Charles Augustus Murray visited in 1835. In his book, *Travels in North America*, Murray writes:

This village of Keokuk is the lowest and most blackguard place that I have yet visited: its population is composed chiefly of the watermen who assist in loading and unloading the keel-boats, and in towing them up when the rapids are too strong for the steam-engines. They are a coarse and ferocious caricature of the London bargemen, and their chief occupation seems to consist in drinking, fighting, and gambling.⁶⁵

Unhappily for Keokuk, Murray wrote this account before he had visited Natchez, otherwise he probably would not have bothered to comment on the rough characters he encountered in Keokuk.

Steamboating on the Des Moines River had begun as

⁶⁴ Lieut.-Col. Arthur Cunynhame, *A Glimpse of the Great Western Republic* (London, 1851), 139-40.

⁶⁵ Charles Augustus Murray, *Travels in North America during the Years 1834, 1835, & 1836* . . . (2 vols., London, 1839), II, 96.

early as 1837 when the steamboat *Science*, commanded by S. B. Clarke, stemmed the current as far as Keosauqua. She carried a cargo of flour, meal, pork, groceries, and whisky. Six years later the *Agatha* arrived at present day Des Moines with a cargo of troops and military supplies. Prior to the Civil War more than two score craft were engaged in navigating the tortuous bends of the winding Des Moines. The names of such boats as the *Caleb Cope*, the *Add Hine*, the *De Moine Belle*, the *Charley Rodgers*, the *Flora Temple*, the *Maid of Iowa*, and the *Little Morgan* are writ large in the history of transportation in the Des Moines Valley. Undoubtedly the greatest feat was the ascent of the *Charley Rodgers* to Fort Dodge in 1859.⁶⁶ During the fifties, when our own phantom boat docks at the Port of Des Moines, high hopes were still held for regular steamboat navigation between Keokuk and the capital of Iowa.

And so we take leave of our Mississippi River which washes the eastern border of Iowa for 250 miles. As we glance back over the long list of eye-witnesses who have contributed their part toward the painting of this picture, we can be sure that all of them would subscribe to the words of C. D. Arfwedson, a Swede who visited the United States during the 1830's. Arfwedson devoted much space in his two-volume book to the Father of Waters.

I was repeatedly told in America that none can form a correct idea of the Mississippi, who has only visited it once. I doubted the truth of this assertion, until I had an opportunity of personally surveying this immense river. A few weeks' acquaintance with it, soon convinced me that its appearance in spring, when the banks overflow, is very different from what it is in autumn. Trees, which in summer and autumn raise their aged heads far above the surface of the water, are hardly visible during the rest of the year, and

⁶⁶ See William J. Petersen, *Iowa, The Rivers of Her Valleys* (Iowa City, 1941), Chap. 15.

resemble immense forests growing at the bottom of an extensive lake. One is even led to believe that it requires a man's life time to examine and to become thoroughly acquainted with the character of this river. Individuals who inhabit its shores, are often struck with amazement at the sudden changes produced in a single night; in the course of the Mississippi, by its increased width and extraordinary ravages; how then is it possible for a traveller who only sees it once, to come to any correct conclusion? He may be astonished at its length — judge by the depth of tributary streams, of its immense mass of water — tremble at the violence of the waves — contemplate with surprise the turbid water which follows him, when land is out of sight — still he knows nothing of the Mississippi, till the evening of a long life, commenced, passed, and concluded on its shores.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ *Niles' Weekly Register*, XLVIII (June 6, 1835), 241.

DOCUMENTS
LETTERS FROM TAYLOR COUNTY, 1868-1880

Edited by MILDRED THRONE

Economic and social conditions in southwestern Iowa between 1868 and 1880 are portrayed in the following letters from Austin S. Houck¹ and other Iowans to Stephen H. Griffith, a Somerset County, Pennsylvania, farmer. Griffith had formed a friendship with Houck during a brief residence in the Middle West before 1860. The Pennsylvanian owned the northeast quarter of section 12, township 69, range 34, in Taylor County for over twenty years, and several of the letters deal with payment of taxes on his land and with his plans for the sale of the property.

Although the letters are scattered over a period of twelve years, they do point out certain facts about land and price conditions which should be of interest to the economic historian. It has unfortunately been impossible to track down other contemporary references to the swindling and absconding real estate agents (see letter of August 8, 1876) or to the fraudulent mortgages credited to the agents of the Scotland Trust and Loan Company (see letters of September 16 and 23, 1880).

The letters contain other economic information of interest and value. For instance, the increase in Griffith's taxes

¹ Austin S. Houck, born in New York in 1832, emigrated to Taylor County in 1856. A carpenter, he is credited with building the first frame house in Bedford, the county seat. In 1860 he went to the Pike's Peak region in search of gold, staying in that area for about 2½ years. Returning to Bedford, he enlisted in Co. B, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, in 1863, in which company he served as commissary sergeant until 1865, when he was discharged for disability. Following the war he entered the farm implement business with his brother Edwin. *History of Taylor County, Iowa* . . . (Des Moines, 1881), 532-3, 647-8.

on his quarter section, from \$6.62 in 1861 to \$26.84 "with 9 per cent interest" in 1876 indicates the rapid rise in property values as the new county was settled and improved. Statistics on prices and wages, given in the letter of November 24, 1868 (or 1869), and references to the building of the railroads in and around Taylor County give additional information on the economic growth of this section of southwestern Iowa.

A letter from Austin Houck, written to his brother and sister from Colorado in 1860, was published in the Bedford newspaper. This letter has been added to the collection.

The letters were submitted to *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS* by Dr. Carrol H. Quenzel, librarian and professor of history at Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia. They are the property of Stephen H. Griffith's grandson, Dr. William Wayne Griffith, assistant professor of English at Mary Washington College. Dr. Griffith has graciously consented to their publication.

Bedford Iowa Mar 23rd / 1860

Friend Griffith

Dear Sir — I am happy to inform you of the safe arrival of your draft last night and found it all right. I accordingly paid your tax and remit the receipts to you² I began to feel afraid that there was something wrong again as it did not come as soon quite as I looked for, but this time it is all safe.

There is 26 cts over the amt. you will perceive which I except [accept] as Post money but nothing farther. I expect to take a trip to the rocky mountains in a few days to try my luck at gold hunting and presuming you would occasionally like to hear from that region I will write accordingly. Two weeks ago yesterday I attended a wedding party at

² Houck and others handled the payments of taxes on Griffith's holdings in Taylor County.

Mr Nashes in this place, also last night at the homestead. There was two couple marriade at the same time. The first couple was Wesley Underwood to Miss Nancy Nash the other two couple was, G. W. Cummins to Miss Perkins and Wm Michael to Miss Perkins There is a grand infair this after noon and of cource I shal be needed to keepe the par[t]ies straight Old bachelors make excellent moderators but I expect I am not fully entitled to full membership yet a while We had a grand time at each of these weddings The Bedford Calthumpean band was out side for the space of 3 or 4 hours making more nois than would take to dround the artillary of heaven. This disgraceful practice is prevalent through this state and Missouri and sometimes to a very greate extent. Respecting my future prospects my intention and intended I have but a word to say, my intention as I before sed is tourds Piks peak. My prospect is that of other gold hunters. My intended as yet is a shadow without a substance or reality and only lives in immagination I have the faults of other men of my age, looking for supreme perfection which my own better judgment tels me can never be satisfide or found, which on the other hand would uterly disqualefy me as a companion.

The noble wish of your generous Leady to hear that I am living in the rich fulness of womans love, at some future period it may be my happy lot to gratefy The winter & spring is very mild and pleasent. There has not been a drop of rain or flake of snow for over 5 weeks and the most of the time clear and warm. but some wind now and then. I had almost forgot to tel you that I am well as usual. I believe I have not eny thin to write further of interest.

As ever your Friend & Servent.

To S. H Griffith

From

A. S. Houck

[Bedford *Taylor County Tribune*, September 13, 1860]

COMMUNICATED

SPANISH [*sic*] BAR R. K. B. Mts.,³S. CLEAR CREEK K. T.⁴ July, 24, 1860.

DEAR BROTHER & SISTER: —

The time has come when the blaze of excitement has passed away, and extravagant hopes, and useless fears are superseded by fixed realities, which three months experience have demonstrated to me to be true. And presuming that I am now as capable of writing the truth as I shall be (though partially incapable as well as others to do so) I will, to the best of my ability, strive to perform my task. I am aware that news from this section respecting the Mines and their general development is already stale, and uninteresting, and varying according to the luck of its expositor.

I could give you my own experience in mining, but no man's personal experience is a correct miniature of the mining interest as a whole.

The mines may be described under four general heads viz; Gulch, Bar, Patch or Dry digging, and Quarts leads. The Gulch claims, as a general thing, require from 6 to 20 feet of stripping to get to the pay dirt, and many times it is impossible to get down to the bed on account of water. I believe as a general thing they do not pay the expenses of opening them, yet there are exceptions, some pay very well. A Dutchman who had just returned from the Big Blue, replied to my interrogations respecting the mines as follows: "Von claim pay tam goot, ten claim pay no pay at all." — This answer in my opinion will apply to the entire Gulch,

³ Appreciation is due to LeRoy R. Hafen, executive director of the State Historical Society of Colorado, for the following interpretation of this heading: Spanish Bar was on South Clear Creek near the present site of Idaho Springs, some thirty-five miles west of Denver. "R. K. B. Mts." very probably is a misprint for "R. K. Y. Mts." — or Rocky Mountains.

⁴ Kansas Territory. Colorado did not achieve territorial status until 1861.

Bar, and Patch diggings. From the best information I can gain respecting Quarts mining, it is the only safe business a man can engage in here in the shape of mining and even in this, great care is necessary in selecting a locality, and a heavy capital required to start with. It is a true saying that it takes a mine to work a mine.

The necessary expenses in opening a claim before you can realize wages, will cost from \$100 to a \$1,000, and all from first to last is uncertainly [*sic*]. You may strike the pay streak, but the chances are ten to one against you.

There is a wild and reckless speculation going on here among the miners.— A claim that is opened and prospects well will sell for more in promissory notes than there is in it. The game is, get enough down to warrent a sale and as much more on time as possible. It is my honest opinion that there is more money expended in buying and opening claims, than will ever be taken out.

From the best information I can get, we have the best claims in this district, (at least they pay better than any others) I know of. We have two hired hands, and six of us in Co. Here is the amounts as we take it out: July 10th \$11,41; 12th, \$17,50; 13th, \$17,82; 14th, \$30,45; 16th, \$8,55; 18th, \$28,60; 19th, \$25,45; 20th, \$24,79; 21st, \$12,75; 23d, \$33,00. Our hired help costs us three dollars a day to the hand. Board is worth one dollar a day to the hand.— The cost of tools, Sluices, &c., are not very great, but still it counts. Our claims cost \$1,080, they are good for cost when ever we wish to dispose of them. Now these are the facts in our case. When you have summed it up you will know all that I know about our prospects. We hope and expect to do better, but there is no positive proof that we shall. We spent about six weeks with five of our Co., in opening our claims. Of course we made nothing until we got to pay dirt.

You doubtles hear exciting stories of men taking out

from five to one hundred dollars a day. These stories are generally based upon facts, but there are other facts connected with them, which materially change their character. For instance, a man works fifty days for which he gets nothing, and on the fiftyfirst day he takes out \$80 or \$100, and this last item is published all over the land, nothing is said of the fifty days for which he received nothing.

Perhaps I have underrated the mines, and when we take into consideration the fact that nearly all who come here are green in the business, and that this is their first attempt to collect Gold, I feel more confident that we shall yet do something in the way of making money. We have now had three months experience, and I regard it as quite an item.

I have not been able to do any hard work for about a month. I am now able to cook for the rest of the boys. My ill-health was doubtless caused by change of climate and exposure. All the rest of our boys are in good health, fine spirits, and sanguine in their hopes of success. As for myself I am glad I came here, for it will pay me in more ways than one.— The variety of scenery; the strange contrast between our broad prairies of Iowa, the monotonous scenery of the Plains, and these lofty mountain ranges piled one above another, until they reach the regions of perpetual snow, amply pay me for my journey; and I love to wander up these deep mountain gorges and gaze upon the projecting cliffs far above me, and listen to the roar of these mountain torrents as they leap from their ice-bound regions above, chiming in their base with Nature's great anthem which the winds are constantly playing in the tops of these lofty pines which overshadow us. But my letter has already grown too lengthy, I must therefore close for the present.

AUSTIN S. HOUCK.

Bedford Iowa Feb 14th 1861

Mr Stephen. H. Griffith

Dear Sir

to day Mr. Edwin Houcke⁵

showed me a letter from you to Austin Houck in which you speak of your Taxes in this county, and as Austin is in the Pikes, Peak, Gold Mines, and, as we are engaged in the tax paying business he requested me to write to you about the same. Amt of Tax for 1860 on

N E	12 — 69 — 34	\$ 5.52
	Interest Say	10
	fee	1 00

State Bank of Ohio or Ind, \$ 6 62

or Draft on New York or any par funds on Banks in *free States* no Tory seceding treason fostering paper rec'd I wrote to you some time ago informing you of Am't but probably you did not get my letter

Very Respectfully yours

Jesse Evans⁶*Register letter*Bedford Iowa May 22nd AD 1862

Mr Stephen H Griffith

Dear Sir

Yours

of April 28th is received and contents noted, and in answer I will say that to pay all taxes, both State County school &

⁵ Edwin Houck, born in New York in 1820, was an older brother of Austin. He emigrated to Taylor County in 1854 and is credited with having built the second house on the site of Bedford. He also established the first printing press in the county and later opened a farm implement agency. *History of Taylor County . . .*, 647.

⁶ Jesse Evans, born 1844, came to Taylor County in 1856 with his parents. He was a merchant and grocer in Bedford in the 1880's, *ibid.*, 641.

Federal it will take Seven Dollars and 45 cents including 50 cents for my fee send Draft on New York or Ohio Indiana or Iowa Currency will answer if it is more convenient than a Draft if it runs another month it will be about 15 cts more

Yours truly

Danl Underwood

Treasurer of
Taylor Co
Iowa

P S Austin Houck is gone to Pikes Peak

D U

LAW AND REAL ESTATE OFFICE

OF

MOORE & KINSELL.

Bedford, Taylor Co., Iowa, Sept 7 1867

S H Griffith Esq

Dear sir

Yours of the 14 of Aug. has been received and contents noted

I do not think your land can be sold for \$6.00 an acre or any thing near that amount. Any amount of wild land can be bought in this County for from \$1.50 to \$3.00 an acre⁷ I would advise you to hold on a few years as we have a good prospect for a R. R.

Austin is still living here He is married. The population of Bedford is about 500. The Co is improving slowly

Truly yours &C

Edwin Houck

⁷ According to the *Iowa Agricultural Report, 1867*, 479, improved land in Taylor County was selling for \$13 to \$30 an acre, while unimproved land could be bought for \$2.50 to \$7.00 per acre.

Office of E. T. Smith
Real Estate Agt.
Bedford Taylor Co.
Iowa Sept 16th 1868

Stephen H Griffith Esq

Dr Sir

There is a man by the name of Topping wants to buy the N E quarter of Sec. 12 Township 69 — Range 34 — and offers us \$3.00 per Acre — About the average of lands selling in this County—in like situation —

If you wish to sell to him at that price & will make out the deed & forward to us we will send you the amt. Either by Dft or by Express —

As we have been selling a good many pieces of land in this Co. we prefer sending by Dft. but pe[r]haps Express would be best for You as you live in a distant State —

Very Truly

E. T. Smith⁸

Our Commission 5% —

Office E. T. Smith
Land Agt.
Bedford Iowa Nov 7/68

Mr. S. H. Griffith
Jennerstown Pa:

Dr. Sir

Mr. C. L. Cuppy authorizes us to say to you that he will *take* the N. E. Qr. Sec. 12.— 69 — 34 at your price as per your letter \$5.00 per acre or \$800.— for the piece if Provided you will give him *Eight* months to pay the half of it. He paying *half cash down* — Mr. C. will secure the payment of the last half by note at 10% int & mort-

⁸ See letter of Aug. 8, 1876, for a further reference to E. T. Smith.

gage on the Land — Mr. C has the money for last half — due him from parties in Ohio — & due 15th July next.— He wishes to make a trip to Ohio in Spring of 1869 — & that is the reason he asks 8 mos. time on part — We can “*vouch*” for Mr. C He will pay it promptly when due — Mr. C. agrees to pay us our fees in the sale of the land & you will be at no expense from it whatever except sending the money to you — Please state how you wish it sent if you should accept the above as we presume you will We think it a good sale — We sold 80 acres today as good as your piece at \$3.00 per [acre] cash & have got more at same price —

If you conclude to sell to Mr. C. please send us a waranty deed in name of *C. L. Cuppy* — We can send you money by Dft —

Hopeing to hear from you soon we remain Yours truly

E. T. Smith

Clerk, Dist. Court

Blue Grove Farm Taylor
Co Iowa Dec 3^d 1868

S H Griffith Esq

Dear sir

Yours of the 20th inst is before me. In answer to your Inquiries I will say that good prairie located as favorably as yours is, is now selling at about \$5.00 pr acre Bedford is improving quite fast About 1000 hands are at work on the R. R. below⁹— expect to have the cars running to Bedford next season. I am engaged in farming, 16 miles North of Bedford A large force is at work on

⁹ This probably refers to a branch line of the Missouri Valley Railroad Co. being built from Savannah to Maryville, Mo.; completed to Maryville in November of 1869. W. W. Baldwin, *Corporate History of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company and Affiliated Companies* . . . (n. p., n. d. [1922]), map facing 233, 240. This line was deeded to the C. B. & Q., January 1, 1901, *ibid.*, 252.

the B & M R R about 10 miles N of my farm¹⁰ Excuse the brevity of this letter I am in a hurry

Yours Truly

Edwin Houck

Bedford Iowa Nov 24th 68[?] ¹¹

Mr. Stephen H Griffith, esq

Johnstown Pa —

Dear Sir

Your favor of Nov the 10th came to hand the 20th of this month and at this my earliest convenience I will endeavor to respond to it.

1st the season as the entire year has been very unfavorable for crops and the tillage of the ground and for verious other improvements The year has been wet and cold compared with other seasons here, yet peace and plenty are ours and we feel that a better day is dawning for us. Money is quite plenty here and the following is the market prises so far as I know of farm produce

Wheat	\$1.00 bu
Corn	.50 cts do	Livewate \$7½ cwt
Oats	.35 cts do	Flour \$4 cwt
Potatoes	.20 cts do	Beef 7 to 10 cwt
Beans	5.00 do	Wood pr-cd- \$5
Stock hogs about 6 cts pr lb good cows \$50 — ordinary cows \$35 Horses medium \$125, Spring calves about \$12 pr head Oxen pr yoke average about 125 dollars Native lum-		

¹⁰ The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, part of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR. system. The main line of the B. & M. RR. was completed from Burlington to the Missouri River in 1869. Richard C. Overton, *Burlington West* . . . (Cambridge, 1941), 230-31.

¹¹ This letter was probably written in 1869, not 1868, because of following: mention of completion of the B. & M. R. RR. (not finished until 1869, see note 9); mention of death of wife which occurred in 1869, according to information in *History of Taylor Co.* . . ., 648; 1868 was a year of grasshoppers and drought, while 1869 was a year of wet weather, *Iowa Agric. Report, 1868*, 325,

ber pr thousand about \$25,— Pine according to lot or quality averags from \$22 50/100 up to \$65 per thousand here. Good farmes close to Bedford is worth from 25 to 50 dolors per acre according to improvements Prairie land unimproved within 5 miles of this Place that is good is worth \$10 pr acre and selling at that No land in the county is worth less than \$5 to 8 here now

Bedford is growing very rapidly and would grow much faster if we could get carpenters and masons enough We hav about 600 inhavotence now, a courthouse three good churches already built and the fourth will soon be built. We hav one of the best schoolhouses in southern Iowa with 4 departments a graded school, the house cost us about \$12,000. We hav a good flouring mill here and two saw mills. We have 1 furniture store 2 drug stores 3 grocery stores and nine drigoods houses and 3 black smith shops, one aggreultural firm 1 waggen shop — an juell [jewelry store?] and news depot two good taverns We hav no lack of the clerical — legal or medical faculties here [and] R. R roads. The Burlington and Mo river R R is finished acrost the state it runs North of Bedford 20 miles. The Mo Valley R R — is now finished up to merysville¹² and the cares ran in yesterday They hav the survay and grade stakes up to Bedford and are now at work betwen here and merrysville the next county seat south of here They expect to complete the road to this place next season¹³

As you may not know eny thing of this road I will say that there is a line of road running from Galveston Texas to St Paul. minesota on the north

426-7, 431, 437; *ibid.*, 1869, 6-7; and mention of completion of Missouri Valley Railroad — which was completed in 1869, according to Baldwin, *Corporate History of C. B. & Q.* . . ., map facing 233.

¹² Maryville, Missouri. See note 9.

¹³ This line was extended from Maryville to the state line during 1870 by the Kansas City, St. Joseph & Council Bluffs Railroad Co., Baldwin, *Corporate History of the C. B. & Q.* . . ., 250.

This road comes by the way of Ft Scott Kansas Leevenworth St Joseph Mo. Bedford Iowa Ft Des-moins the capital of this state and to the great Pineries of Minnesota and Wisconsin A large portion of the road has been built and the[y] are now vigorously at work connecting various points in the line. The State line R. R.¹⁴ is progressing slowly from the east and we expect a junction at this place in time There is plenty of chances to get good Bargains for farmes here and I think you can get one to suit you near town if you want to do so.

Common labour is worth about \$20 per month, daily labor is worth here in town \$1.50 Carpenters get about \$3. I could furnish 20 good carpenters work all the time here except cold wether. many jobs are laid over for want of help to complete them so you see times are lively here. School teachers get about \$45 to \$50 per month here, and more wanted I hav answered the questions you desired to know by simply stating facts so far as I hav a knowledg of the same I will further state in refference to our North and South R. R. that the engineers are here now setting the grade stakes They leave here tomorrow to complete the work of survey on the rout toards Des Moines I will now give you a short history of my life since you left here. The Spring of 60 I went to the Gold mines of Colorado — Staid there 2½ years. I acquired considerable propperty there I then returned to Iowa and enterd the army and staid or soldiered 2 years more — come off by a close rub for my life. I returned to Iowa after the war close and marriad a Girl by the name of Anjaline J Hunnel, of Wisconsin. she lived

¹⁴ Evidently a reference to the Iowa and Missouri State Line Railroad Company, a road projected from the Mississippi, south of Fort Madison, across the southern tier of Iowa counties, to the Missouri River. This road was never built, but surveys were made, prior to February of 1870. After several incorporations with other roads, the company became part of the C. B. & Q. system in 1901. Baldwin, *Corporate History of the C. B. & Q.* . . . , 179ff.

only about thirty months and I was cald to pass through the sadest event of eny mans life. my parting with, who above all others I most tenderly loved. This broke down my health and caused such mental suffe[r]ing that I could not labour or rouse for nearly six months. I am alone in the world with only one little Boy that I can love and call my own. I Bought five acres of land here in town built a good house and made a good home that we might hav the comforts of life as time passed on but alas for me my house is the preasent home of a stranger and my Boy is with his aunt and I but a boarder at the hotel agene. I hav made some money since you were here I lost about \$15000.00 during the war or I fear it is lost some think I can get it yet.

You say you hav a Wife and four littl ones. God bless you and yours. You hav the elements of true happiness a treasure for the heart and soul. May long life be granted to you and yours and may you long enjoy their love without tasteing of the cup I hav drunk

If I can be of eny survic to you here after I will be glad to aid my old Friend Write when you can and I will let you know eny facts you may desire to know

Yours truly

A. S. Houck

Excuse my meny mistakes

[fragmentary — evidently to Stephen H. Griffith, Esq.]

. . . eny bisness you desire free of eny charge and transmit your receipts for taxes & when paid. I will get the Amt of taxes this year let you know when due and you send the amount. Bedford is alive with land agents who charge for all such bisness a large per ct. I hope I may be of some survice to you in this respect and will be glad to do so much for a Friend. I Expect to visit Pen. this winter and hav

about made up my mind to come and see you and spend a few days in Johnstown and vicinity I am Single yet and can come as well as not. I have been intensely lonesome since Anny died and perhaps the excitement of travel and the reunion of Old friends at home may do me good

I have a nice home here 5 acres in the center of Bedford for a residence a good house as is in the town but it is lonesome for me there now. You say you have a good Secret for me but cannot trust it to paper now Well we always hope for something to come to us that is good. I will hope and try to merit that which will bring happiness and contentment to me, and will appreciate any revelation of good you may have in store for me

Hoping to hear from you Soon I will close.

My respects to your

Wife & family

Yours Truly

A. S. Houck

Direct as usual to Bedford

Bedford Jan 19th 72

S. Griffith

Dear Sir I have your favour of Dec 17th but have delayed answering it until the present [present] as I have been quite busy in the Country finishing up some jobs of work. I was glad to hear from you as ever and always feel that I have a treat when your letters come Today I am not very well as I have a severe cold and obliged to lay by from work. I have been to the treasurers Office and find your tax on your 160 acres of land to be \$23.32 Our tax here is high but our prospects are good. We have the North and South R R now complete and doing a good business.¹⁵ there was 13 car load

¹⁵ Probably a reference to the Creston Branch of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. Starting at Creston, on the main east-west line of the

of fat cattle and hogs went out for Chigago yestaday and the agent says there is from one to 13 almost dayly for the past few weeks. We expect to get the East and west R R which is being built through the sothern teer of Co which will give us the advantage of two rival Co. There will be no charge for paying you[r] tax as it is no trouble to me — living within a few rods of the cort house. Your land is within 6 miles of the R R and is probably worth at preasent \$8 per acre When I send you your tax receipts I will write you a long letter but I hope you will excuse me for preasent as I am in a very poor condition to write an interesting letter Money is quite hard to collect here at preasent as evry thing is low in price

I hav almost forgotten to tell you the name of my Boy We gave him the name — Austin Irving He is well and as fat as his picture represents. Pro- [Professor] Aiton and his wife are living in my house and I board with them and am conidered as one of the family He is principle of the ecadamy here. The Pro- expects to build in the Spring so I hav but of two choices I suppose viz to get an othe [another] family to come and take care of my propperty here or get a wife, and liv at home and tak care of it myself But I must See the East before I settle agane in life I cannot say when I will come, because my money matters are hard to control without closing some mortgages that I do not like to, at preasent.

Give my respects to family and hoping this will find you and yours well and in all the enjoyment of lifes choicest blessings I will close for the preasent —

Yours Truly

A. S. Houck,

Burlington and Missouri, the road was built south to a junction with the Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs Railroad Company branch at the Iowa-Missouri state line, between August, 1871, and January, 1872. In 1875 the Creston branch became a part of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy system. Baldwin, *Corporate History of the C. B. & Q.* . . ., 153-4.

Bedford Iowa Sep 25th 1872

To Stephen H Griffith

Dear Sir

Your of Sep 17th is received and in reply I will say that Mr Erbe the man that was talking of bu[y]ing your land, left for Wisconsin shortly after I wrote you in July. He directed me to get your best terms and write him on the receipt of your letter which I did, but hav got no answer yet. I think he concluded he could not buy at the price and dropped the matter. I will write him and lay before him your last terms and will let you know [when] I hear from him/

The mens names that live in the same Sec is Daniel Hamlim-¹⁶ and John Rutledge¹⁷ They are bothe well to do Farmers and very good men. Hamlim would hav a very good chance to sell it if he does not buy it himself as he lives joining. and is a prominent man in the Co. and a very honorable one. I will continue my efforts also, and when we get offers we can submit them to you.

Money is very scarce here and hard to collect this fall Corn is 16 cts Oats 7 cts Wheat 8 cts Potatoes 25 cts and all other grains in the same ratio I hav had a little bad luck myself in loaning money but hope to get it sometime. it was onely \$300, but it was evry dollar I had on hand and it hurt, for the preasent

I would recommend Daniel Hamlim as a good man to confer with in refference to your qr-Sec- as his farm joins on the south, and he is a good buisness man, and I will also refer all wanting to puchaes to your $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec that I see.

Your Truly

A. S Houck

¹⁶ Probably D. W. Hamblin, "farmer and stock-raiser, section twelve," *History of Taylor County* . . ., 814-15.

¹⁷ "Farmer and stock raiser, section 12 . . .," *ibid.*, 823.

(PS) I will take a little of the unfermented juice of those apples with you, But as I hold high posish in the I O of the G. T.¹⁸ I cannot drink Sidar or Wine you know.

Bedford Iowa Jan 7th 1873

Stephen H Griffith

Dear Sir

Your favor of Dec 27th is at hand and check for \$26 22/100 also rec- Enclosed I send you receipt of the Co Treasurer for taxes on your qur-Sec-. Ware there ever such a Cold winter here and such hard times as these in this County is the inquiry of all our recent Setlers here. We say No The Thermometor ranges from zero to 29 degrees below and has Seldom been above friezing point since the 1st Dec It is more mild today Times are very hard here There is no money to be had and we are litteraly ded so far as bisness is concerned. Corn is worth onely 12 cts delivered at the depo in Bedford Poark \$2.80 cts per cwt. Potatoes 15 cts, before it froze up, in the fall. Oats is onely 7 cts delivered. Thousands of people are burning their Corn for fuel, at preasent. The Epizot [Epizooty] among horses has become almost universal but many use them, acording to their necessities, as it is quite light in most cases, a few hav died here in town. I did expect to visit you this last fall and collected my money for that very purpose in August last. A man here who had bought a farm and had a mortgage to pay wanted to borrow the money for a few days and I let him hav it on conditions that he would get it when I called for it. I hav called but my calls are not successful yet To secure myself I hav been forced to take a property here in town that leaves me in debt and no money. I was in hopes I

¹⁸ Independent Order of the Good Templars, a temperance society. See Jacob A. Swisher, "Good Templars in Iowa," IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, XLV (July, 1947), 235-60.

could get out of the matter and save the money for a pleasure trip but I hav failed, and my circumstances compell me to abandon it, for a while at least. There is no such thing as Selling propperty here at eny price for Cash, at preasent. There is no money in the Country and all we can do is to be contented until the East can buy our surpluss grain & stock I Should like to hav the priviledge of Spending the winter with you and the rest of my friends East. But fortune orderd otherwise even against my most ardent desire.

Yours Truly

A. S. Houck

Bedford, Iowa Aug 8th, 1876

Stephen H Griffith Esq

Johnstown Pa

Dear Sir

Your favor of July 26th to hand and reed with pleasure. It findes me well but the hard times and the great Searcity of money in the west makes me as well as all other men in business feel uneasy about our collections, and the concequence that follow. Our Wheat & Oat & Barley Crops are almost an entire failure Wrye and winter wheat in some instances are an average crop Corn looks well for a fair crop yet, but hundreds of hogs are diing with diseas and the outlook is not flattering. We hav credited out a large amount of goods for us concidering our capital and Bought on time and to collect enough these hard times to meet our own paper is the point. The Taxes on your $\frac{1}{4}$ section is \$26 84/100 with 9 per cent interest. you had better pay before October 1st as there would be additional cost in advertising tax list as delinquent. You hav paid a good deal of tax on that land but it will come back to you with good interest and principle Some time There is not over 3 or 4 quarter sections in the township but what has been

taken by actual settlers and land will be scarce in two years more. As regard Agents I will Say That, E. T. Smith, & O. B. Willson, have left for Mexico with the proceeds of their commission land sales. about \$100,000 in the arrears. it is pretty well for you that you did not have anything to do with them for they would have swindled you out of the Money if they could They got up the biggest swindle ever perpetrated in this part of Iowa that I Know of. As to E. Johns, W F Evens and F E Walker they are a new firm that has gone into business lately. As Men they Stand fair. But they will expect to make a good commission out of the matter. If the land was mine I would hold it until times change and money gets more plenty This country has improved very fast in the last 3 years It is no longer a wild Prairie but in every directions you see farms Groves and fields and there is an abundance of the very best of fruit in the county. Bedford now has about 2000 inhabitants.—

Bedford, Iowa, May 5th, 1878

Stephen H Griffith
Johnstown Pa

Dear Friend

Your letter of the 25 of April came to hand this morning and I have just taken your receipt of Taxes on your $\frac{1}{4}$ Section from the Treasurer R. C. King The letter was a little longer coming than usual, consequently late to save the one per cent. The land is worth \$12 per acre and I believe some one will purchase it before fall It is now Surrounded by good improved farms. I will talk the matter to all land buyers that comes along that I see. I have notified the farmers around the neighborhood that the land was for sale and refer any one that wanted to buy a farm to me

Yours Truly

A. S. Houck

Bedford Iowa January 5th 1880

Stephen. H. Griffith
Johnstown Pa

Dear Sir

I See by the St Louis Commercial reporter that there is large quantaties of Steel fence Wire Manufactured at your town. As the West especialy this State is largely fenced with wire the demand is heavy, and I write you to assertan the Whole Sale price by car load and to see if an arrangement could not be made to send Wire this way and corn back to the works. thus making use of Cars boath ways The Company Could get special rates for cars and we handle at this end of the rout. Sell to dealers in good-commercial Standing as well as retail, at our own house. I could be in readiness to load a car with corn or such other farm products as most desirable.

Corn is worth today, 23, ets

Wheat " " No 2 ", 90

Oats " " , 20

Potatoes , 40.

Other produce of the farm are in simpathy with these Prices It does seam to me that an arrangement of this kind ought to win by good management There would be a cash bal- to the Co. as return cares would not square act. [account]

Money is getting plenty and buisness good. Let me hear from you

Yours Truly

A. S. Houck

for

E. Houck

Bedford Iowa 1/19th 1880

S. H. G

Johnstown

Dear Sir your letter has been received and read with pleasure. I am sorry to hear of ravages of diseases in your midst There is no diseases or feavers in our midst at present — universal health prevails. Well let me give you a description of a day in Bedford — Say Saturday the 17th for instance. The day is clear and warm and the air is full of honey bees and other insects all out on a general frolic It is 9, o'clock and in every direction you could see up here farmers coming to town with their teams loaded with corn and wood and some hay. Corn is principle commodity. By 10 O'clock every street and alley is full and more coming, by 12 O'clock they estimate there is 500 loads I made some inquiry this morning to get at the amount of corn received by the dealers in Bedford and compiled their figures, and, find that there was 13000, bushels came to town during the day. There is more corn and grain in Taylor Co. than ever before Prices fair — and Farmers are more hopeful. During the hard times land depreciated about one half.

[letter incomplete]

Johnstown Sept. 7th 1880

Register of U. S. land office

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a copy of certificate of location of $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. of land in Taylor County Iowa, for which I never lifted my Patent. Please send me the Patent for the same if in your office or tell me where and by what method I can obtain it.

If you can not send the Patent return the copy and oblige

Yours Truly. Stephen H. Griffith

[written on the back of the above letter]

U. S Land Office

Des Moines, Iowa

Sept 10 1880

DrSir: Your patent is here. Send the certificate of location you hold and 50¢ for Regd. Letter with Patent.

Very Respectfully

F. G Clarke

Register

? What is your *cash* price for the land.

C

Bedford, Iowa, Sept. 16th, 1880

S. H. Griffith

Dear Friend

There is trouble about your land. We find a mortgage on it for \$1500 bearing date Feb. 2^d 1880 I feel sure the mortgage was not executed by you although an affidavit is on record affirming that the S. H. Griffith who executed the mortgage is the identical person to whom the Patent [was] issued by the government, but the mortgage was acknowledged [*sic*] before a Notary Public of this Co and I feel certain that if you had been in this Co last Feb. you would have called on us We made the discovery yesterday about 4 O'clock, and immediately commenced an investigation which lasted nearly all night This morning we have come to the conclusion that two men who have been acting as loan agents for foreign loan companies and have suddenly sprang from poverty to affluence have been engaged in an immense swindle Of course the mortgage is worthless but it constitutes a cloud upon the title to your land which will have to be removed by an action in court, which may cost you a little something and cause some delay in consummating the sale, but as the purchaser does not want

to make improvements before spring, and we can get the cloud removed by that time, I think it will not prevent the sale. I will keep you advised in regard to the matter. In the mien time hold yourself in readiness to come here on the shortest kind of notice. I may telegraph you. I am certain we are about unearthing a big affair

Respectfully

E Houck

Bedford, Iowa, Sep 23^d 1880

Stephen H Griffith
Johnstown Penn

Dr Sir

Last week, Edwin wrote you about a mortgage of \$1500, dollars on your land I at once de-claird it a forgery and went to work to ferit out the gilty parties. Since then forgeries of Notes & Mortgages to the amount of \$7500.⁰⁰ hav been discoverd and the Money loaned on these Securities. How much more they will find is yet to be determined but I presume not less than \$50,000

Two Men that ware agents for the Scotland trust and loan Co of Edinburg Scotland Suddenly became very welthy and I spotted them at once, and as yet hav no reasons to change my Mind.

Bedford is boiling with excitement over the discovery. Men from Muscatine Iowa and from Kansas City are here looking after their interests. The Notes and Mortgages forged were sent from Bedford to the subagency at Muscatine from there to N Y. City and from there to the home office in Edinburg Scotland, whare the money comes from. Thus you see the real evidence of their gilt is a long way off. The Men I charged it upon does not deny but that there is a big steal but say that parties representing themselves as Stephen H Griffith and Wife came and made the loan. But their Ex-

planaiton is entirely to thin to rais suspition from them. They hav already retained 5 of the leading lawyers in town to defend them. I will hav to close as it is mail time.

Of course your title is all right but the court will hav to cancel to [the] mortgage if the Scotland trust and lon Co do not, of their own accord.

More soon,

Yours Truly

A S Houck

[fragment]

The parties here, who ware agents for the Muscatine agents who were agents of the N. Y agents who in turn were [a]gents of the Scotland loan and trust Co have assumed the payment of the whole matter viz \$10000 and hav secured the payment by other Mortgages on their real estates. When I discoverd the Mortgage on your land I cald it a forgery openly on our streetes and it raised the wind at once, the parties at Muscatine were Sent for, and an investigation commenced whitch reveald the fact that about ten thousand dollars hav been obtained in these forgeries, by some one.

The whole matter has been settled by agreement, and the Matter will here drop, without criminal prosecution.

Our Winter has been long and severe and more rain and mud this spring than usual.

Hoping this may find you well I remain as ever yours

A. S. Houck

SOME PUBLICATIONS

BOOK NOTES

Education and Reform at New Harmony. Correspondence of William Maclure and Marie Duclos Fretageot, 1820-1833. Edited by Arthur E. Bestor, Jr. Indiana Historical Society Publications, Vol. 15, No. 3. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1948. pp. 291-408. Notes and index. \$1.00.) Maclure, born in Scotland in 1763, became an American citizen and a wealthy man. At the age of forty he retired from business and became interested in science and education. It was in the interest of education for the masses that Maclure put thousands of dollars in Robert Owen's social experiment at New Harmony. In France Maclure met two Pestalozzian teachers, Madame Fretageot and William S. Phiquepal, to both of whom he provided means to come to Philadelphia. Both later were connected with the colony at New Harmony. The correspondence between Maclure and Madame Fretageot reveals the plans, problems, and jealousies of the leaders of this social experiment.

Kaskaskia under the French Regime. By Natalia Maree Belting. Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences, Vol. XXIV, No. 3. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1948. 77 pp. Illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. \$1.50 paper; \$2.50 cloth.) Kaskaskia, Illinois, was settled by the French in 1703 and remained under that jurisdiction until 1764. The site of the village has disappeared, the peninsula on which it was situated having been eaten away by the waters of the Mississippi. Records of this French town, however, have been preserved, and Miss Belting has made good use of them in recreating the social, economic, and political life of this French settlement. The settlers, their homes and furnishings, and their methods of making a living are described in colorful detail. A forty-page appendix contains extracts from parish records and from the census of 1752. Miss Belting based her research on the

Kaskaskia Manuscripts in the office of the circuit court at Chester, a collection of 3,000 documents dating from 1719 to 1780, and on records in the French archives. She has made admirable use of this material, and has produced a valuable addition to the history of Illinois.

The House of Morrell. By Lawrence Oakley Cheever. With a Foreword by William J. Petersen, Illustrations by Elmer Jacobs. (Cedar Rapids, Torch Press, 1948. 283 pp. Illustrations and index.) The history of John Morrell and Company, leading Ottumwa meat packers, is told by Lawrence O. Cheever. Beginning with the story of the Morrell family in England, Mr. Cheever carries the account of the growth of the company up to the present day. Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, says in the Foreword, "The story of meat packing in Iowa and the nation is greatly enriched by this fine industrial history."

The Agrarian Revolt in Western Canada. A Survey Showing American Parallels. By Paul F. Sharp. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1948. Bibliography and index. vii + 192 pp. \$3.00.) The agrarian revolt of the first decades of the twentieth century in the United States had its parallel in the adjoining regions of Canada. Paul F. Sharp, associate professor of history at Iowa State College at Ames, points out these parallels in a readable and scholarly book. He describes the similarity of the settlement of the western provinces of Canada with the western regions of the United States; the comparable development of the agricultural pattern in the two countries; and the growth of cooperatives in both regions as "an important attempt of North-American farmers to solve common marketing problems." Mr. Sharp shows how "Every major farmers' movement organized in the United States before World War I moved into Canada in some form." Those interested in the farmers' movements will find this discussion of the Canadian development of special interest.

Iowa Outpost. By Katherine Buxbaum. (Philadelphia, Dorrance & Company, Inc., 1948. 253 pp. \$2.50.) Word pictures and character sketches reveal the trials of members of the Moravian faith in their early Iowa community. Katherine Buxbaum often

relies on a backward glance at early Moravian traditions and ceremonies to give color to her story of these religious pioneers. The author does not identify either the town or the characters with authentic names. Even though the story is not a true history, it deals with history-making people of Iowa.

Anti-Semitism in the United States in 1947. (New York and Chicago, Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith. 96 pp. 1948.) This pamphlet is the result of a survey to describe, analyze, and evaluate the anti-Semitism in this country for the year 1947. The survey is divided into Regional Reports, State-wide Reports on 5 States (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, and Florida), and City-wide Reports on 6 cities, all but one Middle Western. The conclusion of the survey points (with certain geographic exceptions) to "a very real increase in unorganized anti-Semitism" as compared with 1946, citing evidence of individual acts of hostility and examples of economic, social, and educational discrimination.

Lincoln and the War Governors. By William B. Hesseltine. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1948. Bibliography and index. x + 393 pp.) Lincoln's relations with the Governors of the North, first during the birth of Republicanism, later through the trying years when he had to plead for troops and supplies, are ably told in Mr. Hesseltine's book. This is a chapter of Civil War history to which much less attention has been paid than to the military victories, yet it is important to the total story of the nation emerging victorious over the states. The treatment of Iowa's war governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood, is typical of the completeness of Mr. Hesseltine's "Gallery of Western Governors."

ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

"California Gold Mania," by Ralph P. Bieber; "The Sectional Issue in the 1918 Congressional Elections," by Seward W. Livermore; "Materials for Western History in the Department of the Interior Archives," by W. Turrentine Jackson; and "Lincoln and the Territorial Patronage: The Ascendancy of the Radicals in the West," by Vincent G. Tegeder, are the articles in *The Mississippi*

Valley Historical Review for June, 1948. In the Notes and Documents Section, "New Papers: Some Sidelights upon Jacksonian Administration," by Albert Somit, and "The Relationship of the Association to the Teaching of History: A Committee Report," also appear in this issue.

Several articles on American history of particular interest to historians of Iowa and the surrounding region appear in the July, 1948, issue of *The American Historical Review*. They are: "The German Forty-Eighters in America: A Centennial Appraisal," by Carl Wittke; "Richard Price and the Constitution of the United States," by Carl B. Cone; and "The 'Presidential Synthesis' in American History," by Thomas C. Cochran.

The Missouri Historical Review for July, 1948, contains "Republican Areas in Missouri," by Robert M. Crisler; Part II of "Missouri in Fiction: A Review and a Bibliography," by Joe W. Kraus; "Missouri Agriculture as Revealed in the Eastern Agricultural Press, 1823-1869" (Part II), edited by George F. Lemmer, and "The Missouri Reader: The Lewis and Clark Expedition," Part II, edited by Helen Deveneau Finley.

Michigan History for March, 1948, contains the following articles of general interest: "David Ward: Pioneer Timber King," by Rolland H. Maybee; "Rediscovering Michigan's Prairies," by Albert F. Butler; "'America' Letters from Holland," edited by John Yzenbaard; and "'A Shout of Derision': A Sidelight on the Presidential Campaign of 1848," by Mentor L. Williams. There is also in this issue a "Michigan Bibliography" and an account of "Folk Music on a Michigan Farm," by Irma Thompson Ireland.

Among the articles in *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June, 1948, are three of interest to historians of the midwest: "Wilderness Travelogue and Doty's Loggery," by John F. Kienitz; "Was Lucius Fairchild a Demagogue?" by Wallace E. Davies; and the document, "A Visit to Wisconsin in 1843," edited by Nils William Olsson.

An account of "Pioneer Life in Western North Dakota," by

T. F. Roberts, appears in *North Dakota History* for July, 1948, as well as the continuation of "Ninety-six Years Among the Indians of the Northwest," by Philip F. Wells as told to Thomas E. Odell.

Three articles of interest to historians of the middle west appear in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for June, 1948. They are "A Nineteenth Century Hoosier Artist (Samuel Richards, 1853-1893)," by Marguerite Hall Albjerg; "Population of the White-water Valley, 1850-1860," by Chelsea L. Lawlis, the last of a series of six articles on the subject; and some Civil War letters, "The Shelly Papers" translated by Sophie S. Gemant and edited by Fanny J. Anderson.

The *Indiana History Bulletin* for June, 1948, contains a helpful list of "Publications of the Indiana Historical Bureau" as well as another list of "Publications of the Indiana Historical Society." Prices of individual items are included as well as indications of items that are out-of-print.

Nebraska History for June, 1948, includes four articles of general interest in the history of the prairie states: "Wood and Water: Twin Problems of the Prairie Plains," by Edward Everett Dale; "Nebraska's 'Rough Riders' in the Spanish-American War," by J. R. Johnson; "Early Education in Nebraska," by Helen Siampos; and "John Milton Thayer" (V-VII) by Earl G. Curtis.

"Peter S. Newell, Cartoonist," by Mabel Hall Goltra; "An Exiled Swedish Novelist and the Civil War," by E. Gustav Johnson; and "Drama in Swedish in Chicago," by Henriette C. K. Naeseth, are three of the articles of general interest in the June, 1948, number of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. There is also an account, by Jay Monaghan, of a spiritualist's letter to Abraham Lincoln.

Minnesota History for June, 1948, contains four articles about early Minnesota history: "A Swedish Immigrant Folk Figure: Ola Värmlänning," by Roy Swanson; "Childhood Recollections of Old St. Paul," by Marion Ramsey Furness; "The Picture Rock of Crooked Lake," by Grace Lee Nute; and "The Beltrami County

Logging Frontier," by Harold T. Hagg. The September, 1948, issue has three articles: "James M. Goodhue's Minnesota," edited by Mary W. Berthel, one of the series of "Territorial Daguerreotypes"; "Jason C. Easton, Territorial Banker," by Rodney C. Loehr; "The Settler and the Army in Frontier Minnesota," by F. Paul Prucha.

The Wisconsin Archaeologist for March, 1948, contains an account by Robert R. Jones of archaeological excavations in Polk, Barron, and Rusk Counties, Wisconsin, describing the artifacts uncovered. This issue also announces the formation of the Wisconsin Archaeological Survey in an article by David A. Baerreis.

"The Catholic Church in the United States, 1852-1868: A Survey," is part IV-VIII of a study by Francis J. Tschan which is continued in the June, 1948, issue of *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society*.

"Early Money and Banks in Cincinnati," by John J. Rowe, appears in the *Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio* for July, 1948, as a chapter in the economic history of this region.

The Southwestern Historical Quarterly for July, 1948, contains an article on "Migration into East Texas 1835-1860," by Barnes F. Lathrop; "A Texas Literary Society of Pioneer Days," by Annie Romberg; and a continuation of a "Check List of Texas Imprints, 1862," edited by E. W. Winkler.

"Young Man from Tennessee," by William N. Chambers; "The Blow Family and Their Slave Dred Scott," by John A. Bryan; and "Significant Manuscripts in the Society's Collection," appear in the *Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society* for July, 1948.

The Arkansas Historical Quarterly has an article in the Summer, 1948, issue on "The Development of Arkansas Railroads," by Stephen E. Woods.

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for September, 1948, is devoted to "Parties and Politics:

1948," with several articles on each of the following topics: Basis of the American Party System; Political Party Organization; The Campaign; Interest Groups in 1948.

The August, 1948, issue of *The American Political Science Review* contains an article of general interest to American historians on "American Government and Politics: The First Session of the Eightieth Congress," by Floyd M. Riddick.

The Kansas Historical Quarterly for August, 1948, contains the following articles: "The Pictorial Record of the Old West: VI, Heinrich Balduin Möllhausen," by Robert Taft; "W. E. Campbell, Pioneer Kansas Livestockman," by C. W. McCampbell; "William Clark's Diary, May, 1826-February, 1831: Part Three, 1829," edited by Louise Barry; and "Recent Additions to the Library," compiled by Helen M. McFarland.

The Catholic Story of Wisconsin by Rev. Benjamin J. Blied has been printed as a separate monograph at Milwaukee, 1948, after appearing serially in *The Family Friend*.

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society for July, 1948, contains: "John Taylor of the Ten Churches," by Dorothy Brown Thompson; "Nine Annual Meetings of the Kentucky State Medical Society Prior to 1861," by Anne Goldsborough Fisher; and "Vital Statistics, Crittenden County Deaths," compiled from the State Archives.

"The Agricultural Problem and Nineteenth-Century Industrialism," by Theodore Saloutos; "Hegel, the Turner Hypothesis, and the Safety-Valve Theory," by W. Stull Holt; "The Archival Records of the Agricultural Adjustment Program," by Carl J. Kulsrud, are among the articles in *Agricultural History* for July, 1948.

The Association of American Railroads, Bureau of Railway Economics Library, has issued in unbound mimeographed form a bibliography on the *Chicago and North Western Railway Company* compiled by Helen R. Richardson, Reference Librarian for the Association.

Three articles of general interest to Middle Western historians in

The Colorado Magazine for September, 1948, are: "Banking in Colorado Springs — The First Sixty-two Years," by William S. Jackson; "The Festival of Mountain and Plain," by Levette J. Davidson; "The First Five Years of Colorado's Statehood," by Dudley Taylor Cornish.

IOWANA

In the Eminent Iowan Series, four articles on the life of Jonathan P. Dolliver appear in the July, 1948, number of the *Annals of Iowa*. In the same issue are some documents about a trip "From Indiana to Iowa," edited by Eleanore Cammack; "Pioneers of the Norway Community," by B. L. Wick; "Iowa — as I Knew It," by Henry W. Wright; and "Iowa's Early West Pointers," by George T. Ness, Jr.

The *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society* for March, 1948, contains two articles of interest to the historians of Protestantism in Iowa: "New Light on the Plan of Union," by Frederick Kuhns, and "Protestant Westward Migration, 1830-1839," by Ellen Harriet Thomsen.

The *Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society* for July, 1948, contains several articles on the general practitioner including one by Dr. Arthur D. Woods entitled, "The Renaissance of the General Practitioner."

Of interest to church historians are the Minutes of *The Presbytery of Fort Dodge* for the fall of 1947 and the spring of 1948, which have been issued as a separate pamphlet.

The *Bulletin of the Iowa State Dental Society* for August, 1948, has an article on "The Beginning of Dental Education in Iowa," by George S. Easton.

The Agricultural Extension Service of Iowa State College issued a special bulletin in July, 1948, on *Iowa Farm Labor: A Report of the Emergency Farm Labor Project of the Agricultural Extension Service, 1943-1947*.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

How LeMars was given its name. *LeMars Sentinel*, May 18, 1948.

Stanley M. Thompson, former legislator, is dead. *Guthrie Center Guthrian*, May 18, 1948.

Keswick class writes history of their town. *Sigourney Review*, May 19; *What Cheer Patriot*, May 20, 1948.

Fremont centennial celebration. *Fremont Gazette*, May 20; *Oskaloosa Herald*, June 4, July 2, 3; *Bloomfield Democrat*, June 17, 1948.

Story of Mrs. S. R. Sipma, Sioux County pioneer. *Alton Democrat*, May 20, 1948.

Dubuque's cable railway was result of banker's whim, by William Blatti. *Des Moines Register*, May 23, 1948.

Interest in tribal mounds grows as State buys land. *Waukon Republican-Standard*, June 1, 1948.

The historic Iowaville cemetery is being cared for. *Bonaparte Record*, June 3, 1948.

Henry Field is successful back fence philosopher, by Louis Cook, Jr. *Des Moines Register*, June 6, 1948.

How James Brothers escaped posse in Sioux City area, by Harry Stolze. *Sioux City Journal*, June 6, 1948.

How Glenwood was named. *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 6, 1948.

Nehemias Tjernagel is farmer, writer, composer, and world traveler, by Lulu Mae Coe. *Des Moines Register*, June 6, 1948.

Manchester Press is oldest and most widely circulated newspaper in Delaware County. *Des Moines Register*, June 7, 1948.

Lime kiln near Bonaparte is monument to Iowa's past. *Ottumwa Courier*, June 9, 1948.

Cono Center Presbyterian church members ousted by court order. *Independence Bulletin-Journal*, June 10, 1948.

Decorah holds gala celebration to raise funds for Norwegian-American historic items. *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, June 13, 1948.

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Death takes Joseph Allen, former Des Moines mayor and State senator. *Des Moines Register*, June 14, 1948.

Portland, Iowa, has been a community center for 70 years. *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, June 14, 1948.

A. H. Bonnstetter, former Kossuth Representative, is dead. *Algona Advance*, June 17, 1948.

Nevada Masonic Lodge honors its founder, Col. John Scott. *Nevada Journal*, June 19, 1948.

Scandinavians observe centennial in statewide celebration. *Des Moines Register*, June 20, 1948.

Frederick B. Knight, former professor in the University of Iowa's education department, is dead. *Iowa City Iowan*, June 20, 1948.

Youth hostels in Iowa have faded away. *Des Moines Register*, June 20, 1948.

Early pioneer settler, Peter Cassel, urged many Swedes to settle in Iowa. *Des Moines Register*, June 20, 1948.

Sweden's Prince Bertil visits Des Moines with party of 25. *Des Moines Register*, June 20, 1948.

Little church at New Sweden now shrine of the Augustana Synod. *Des Moines Register*, June 20, 1948.

Former U. S. District Attorney, Edward G. Dunn, is dead at Mason City. *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, June 21, 1948.

The *Glenwood Opinion-Tribune* is one of Iowa's oldest weeklies. *Glenwood Opinion-Tribune*, June 24, 1948.

Many Indian arrows and tomahawks have been found on the Dan Berger farm. *Tama News Herald*, June 24, 1948.

Mesquakie Indian guides organized for father-son group in Waterloo. *Waterloo Courier*, June 27, 1948.

Waterloo was final home of Dan Kelley, composer of music to "Home on the Range," by Frances Jordan McHugh. *Waterloo Courier*, June 27, 1948.

Former Iowan, Myron M. Cowen, has been appointed Ambassador to Australia. *Des Moines Tribune*, July 1, 1948.

Mrs. J. P. Talley, Sigourney pioneer, writes about home town of 70 years ago. *Sigourney News*, July 1, 1948.

Large mastodon tooth found near West Des Moines, by Howard F. Barnett. *Sioux City Journal*, *Des Moines Register*, July 2; *Cherokee Times*, July 3, 1948.

Oelwein celebrates diamond jubilee, July 25 and 26. *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 4, 1948.

Robert S. Whaley, Deep River, Iowa, is the Voice of America to 42,000 Germans in Denkelsbuhl County, Bavaria. *Davenport Democrat*, July 4, 1948.

Eighty-year-old lady captain, Mary Becker Greene, is back at helm of river packet, *Gordon S. Greene*. *Des Moines Register*, July 4, 1948.

John P. Mullen, former president of Iowa State Fair Board, is dead in Sioux City. *Des Moines Register*, July 5, 1948.

Lee Moore, 108 years old, was former slave. *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, July 13, 1948.

Marietta, Iowa, once Marshall County seat, is no longer on map, by Herb Owens. *Des Moines Tribune*, July 15, 1948.

An Iowa boy, Lyle F. Watts, is now chief forester of the U. S. Forest Service. *Knoxville Journal*, July 15, 1948.

Zoe Ann Olson, former La Porte City girl, member of the U. S. Olympic team. *La Porte City Progress Review*, July 15, 1948.

Aged Bear Creek structure once was thriving woolen mill, by H. G. Tyson. *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, July 17, 1948.

Former state representative, C. L. Beswick, is dead. *Fairfield Ledger*, July 19, 1948.

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Wayne M. Ropes, former Iowa Secretary of State, is dead. *Des Moines Register*, July 19; *Onawa Democrat*, July 22, 1948.

Great fire of 1894 destroyed much of Belle Plaine. *Belle Plaine Union*, July 22, 1948.

Brown family has owned Clinton County farm for 66 years. *Grundy Center Register*, July 22, 1948.

Frank Pletka, 80 years of age, has been Calmar's street and water commissioner for 50 years. *Decorah Journal*, July 22, 1948.

George Lloyd, secretary of the Iowa Petroleum Industries, is dead at the age of 53. *Des Moines Register*, July 23, 1948.

Famed scientist, Robert Andrew Millikan, recalls boyhood days in Maquoketa. *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, July 25, 1948.

Mrs. S. E. Cooper, Maxwell pioneer, has spent 85 of her 95 years in Story County. *Nevada Journal*, July 26, 1948.

State Senator James R. Barkley is dead. *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, *Centerville Iowegian*, and *Des Moines Register*, July 27, 1948.

Susan Glaspell, Iowa-born Pulitzer prize winner, is dead. *Des Moines Tribune*, July 27; *Davenport Times*, July 29, 1948.

Indian burial ground found on Lloyd Bridges' farm near Riverton. *Shenandoah Sentinel*, July 29, 1948.

St. Ansgar celebrates 95th anniversary with 3-day carnival and program. *St. Ansgar Enterprise*, July 29, 1948.

Iowa's first rural mail carrier, Alonzo Hall, is dead at New Providence. *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, August 4, 1948.

Short history of the National School House. *McGregor Times*, August 5, 1948.

Hattie Elston, widely-known Iowa author, dies at 48. *Sioux City Journal*, August 8; *Spirit Lake Beacon*, August 12, 1948.

Old crossroads tradition at Froelich maintained for 60 years. *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 8, 1948.

Lenox was nearly named Kent to honor a good cook, by Esther Dixon. *Creston News-Advertiser*, August 9, 1948.

State Representative Frank Krall is dead after long illness. *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, August 11, 1948.

Carl Gebuhr to be press officer for Marshall Plan in Denmark. *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, August 11, 1948.

Bloomfield landmark once home of Gen. James B. Weaver, twice presidential candidate. *Ottumwa Courier*, August 11, 1948.

Town of Monroe started in 1851. *Monroe Mirror*, August 12, 1948.

Britt's hobo convention was first held in 1900. *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, August 14, 1948.

Traer was founded with arrival of railroad in 1873. *Traer Star-Clipper*, August 15, 1948.

Many antiques included in gun collection of Michael Fody, Jr., of West Branch. *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 15, 1948.

Maquoketa man, Clarence H. Hinke, has large gun collection as hobby. *Maquoketa Sentinel*, August 20, 1948.

How Keota got its Wilson Park in 1876. *Keota Eagle*, August 26, 1948.

Historical sketch of the town of Fremont, by Ned P. Gilbert. *Fremont Gazette*, August 26, 1948.

Kurtz Hardware is oldest business in Des Moines to be operated continuously by same family. *Des Moines Register*, August 29, 1948.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher has retired from the staff of the Society, effective September 1. She has been connected with the Society since 1915, serving as associate editor of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS since 1930 and as editor of the *Palimpsest* since 1945. Her many contributions to the writing of Iowa history are well known. In addition to many articles in the JOURNAL and the *Palimpsest*, Dr. Gallaher is the author of two books: *Legal and Political Status of Women in Iowa*, published in 1918; and, *Stories of Iowa for Boys and Girls*, written in collaboration with Bruce E. Mahan in 1929. She also was co-author of a volume in the Iowa Monograph Series, *The Legislation of the Forty-fifth General Assembly in Iowa*. During the year 1948-1949 Dr. Gallaher will teach political science at Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky.

Dr. Mildred Throne will succeed Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher as associate editor of the Society and as editor of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS. She received her Ph. D. in history from the State University of Iowa in 1946 and for the past two years has been assistant professor of history at Washburn Municipal University, Topeka, Kansas. During the years of her graduate work, Dr. Throne served as editorial assistant on the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. At the 1948 meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association she read two papers, one on Iowa agricultural history and the other on suggested research in railroad-farmer relations. The paper on Iowa agricultural history will be published shortly in *Agricultural History*, the quarterly journal of the Agricultural History Society.

Dr. William J. Petersen, superintendent of the Society, has spoken recently to the following groups: April 7, at the Louisa County Women's Club at Columbus Junction, where he was introduced by Mrs. Margaret Hinderman, curator of the Society; April

15, at Bedford before the High School and at the Spring Council meeting of the City Federation of Women's Clubs; April 16, at Keokuk at the High Twelve Club; April 29, before the Davenport Kiwanis; July 25, at the Kendall Young Library's 50th anniversary meeting, where he was introduced by Judge O. J. Henderson, curator of the Society; September 29, at a regional meeting of 350 Rotarians at Waterloo. Dr. Petersen also met with local groups of members of the Society at Burlington on April 2 and at Davenport on April 29. In July he served as chairman of the Freedom Train Committee at Iowa City and during August was active on the committee for the Hoover birthday celebration at West Branch.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. I. F. Adams, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Gertrude M. Ballard, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Patricia Ellen Beard, Mount Ayr, Iowa; Dr. Charles W. Beckman, Kalona, Iowa; Mr. Paul Beer, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Lois Behner, Sigourney, Iowa; Mr. A. R. Bohn, Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Evelyn Cate, Centerville, Iowa; Mr. William M. Clemens, Sr., Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. R. H. Collier, Dubuque, Iowa; Mt. Rev. Edward C. Daly, Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. C. E. Farrelly, Emmetsburg, Iowa; Mr. P. S. Fawkes, Dubuque, Iowa; Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Robert Owen Fitzsimmons, Boone, Iowa; Mr. John H. Ford, Jr., Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Carl Gartner, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Herbert V. Hake, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. Carl Haverlin, Bronxville, N. Y.; Mr. John M. Hickey, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Howard Hill, Lake Mills, Iowa; Dr. Thomas D. Horn, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. H. Lee Jacobs, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mrs. Will C. Johnson, Winterset, Iowa; Mr. James F. Kee, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Francis Kelly, Pocahontas, Iowa; Mr. J. A. Kerper, Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Lucile N. Klein, Milford, Iowa; Mr. J. Leonard Kline, Exira, Iowa; Mr. Howard Knudson, Parkersburg, Iowa; Prof. B. J. Lambert, Iowa City, Iowa; Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.; Rev. Sylvester D. Luby, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. E. B. Lyons, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Clyde McFarlin, Montezuma, Iowa; Mrs. Opal Clark Mendon, Ogden, Iowa; Mr. George W. Merrill, Sr., Guthrie Center, Iowa; Mr. H. B. Miller, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Peter B. Narey, Spirit Lake, Iowa;

Mr. Chas. Nelson, Aurelia, Iowa; Dr. David Palmer, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. George A. Pavlik, Jr., Le Mars, Iowa; Miss Mabelle I. Petersen, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Geo. W. Raabe, Belle Plaine, Iowa; Mr. Earl H. Reed, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Helen Bruce Robinson, Thornburg, Iowa; Mrs. G. C. Rorem, Ellsworth, Iowa; Miss Ida Schlapp, Fort Madison, Iowa; Mr. Carl Sexauer, Ogden, Iowa; Mr. O. E. Shacklett, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Lester Shauver, Tipton, Iowa; Mrs. Otto Siefken, Floyd, Iowa; Miss Genevieve Stearns, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Harry L. Stover, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. Donald K. Sunde, Denison, Iowa; Mr. John E. Thede, Dixon, Iowa; Mr. P. J. Thede, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. G. J. Timmermann, Bettendorf, Iowa; Mrs. C. B. Trewin, Dubuque, Iowa; Dean Thomas E. Tweito, Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. Willis G. Vanderburg, Shell Rock, Iowa; Mr. Harry G. Wallace, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Carl Weber, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Chas. J. Whipple, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Clair W. Whipple, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. G. W. White, Tipton, Iowa; Mr. R. P. White, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Maria Wiese, Hull, Iowa; Mr. David Ainsworth, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Col. Leon W. Ainsworth, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mr. Peter Ainsworth, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Dr. J. R. Albright, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mr. George K. Allen, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. A. E. Anderson, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. Alden Avery, Spencer, Iowa; Mrs. Grace D. Avery, Spencer, Iowa; Mrs. C. E. Barnes, Eldora, Iowa; Mrs. Gerta M. Barrett, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. John Birdsall, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. W. H. Bischel, Aurelia, Iowa; Mr. C. B. Bjornstad, Spencer, Iowa; Mrs. W. E. Bower, Walnut Creek, Calif.; Mr. Morris E. Bryson, Exira, Iowa; Mr. Basil J. Byrne, Keota, Iowa; Mr. H. M. Carpenter, Jr., Monticello, Iowa; Mr. Charles F. Clarke, Adel, Iowa; Mr. M. M. Cooney, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Wilson Cornwall, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. J. H. Devaney, Sr., Cascade, Iowa; Mr. W. C. Edson, Storm Lake, Iowa; Mr. E. B. Emmans, Adel, Iowa; Mr. D. W. Ernst, Dubuque, Iowa; Dr. Stanley G. Ewen, Estherville, Iowa; Dr. H. E. Farnsworth, Storm Lake, Iowa; Mr. Leo Fitzgibbons, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. John V. Gebuhr, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Carl H. Gill, Creston, Iowa; Mrs. Bessie Stearns Greig, Estherville, Iowa; Col. Robert W. Griffin, Hampton, Va.; Mrs. Eugene Hallen, Davenport, Iowa; Mrs. Wesley F. Heckt, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mrs. Ralph Henin-

ger, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Thomas Higley, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Allan Hoover, Pasadena, Calif.; Hon. Herbert Hoover, New York, N. Y.; Mr. Herbert Hoover, Jr., Pasadena, Calif.; Mrs. J. L. Hoyer, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. John L. Hyland, Tama, Iowa; Mr. Gilbert S. James, Spencer, Iowa; Rev. C. S. Kempker, Keota, Iowa; Mrs. O. J. Kirketeg, Bedford, Iowa; Mr. L. P. Koch, Fort Madison, Iowa; Miss Claudine Koltzau, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Deemer Lee, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. Geo. V. Leffler, Stockport, Iowa; Mr. W. E. Littler, Adair, Iowa; Mr. E. H. Lundy, Eldora, Iowa; Mr. K. J. McDonald, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. Guy E. Mack, Storm Lake, Iowa; Mrs. C. W. Maplethorpe, Toledo, Iowa; Mr. L. P. Marsh, Toledo, Iowa; Mr. George C. Mauss, Spencer, Iowa; Dr. Vernon Maytum, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mrs. Anna M. Morrison, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mrs. Nelle M. Morrison, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mr. Frank M. Murray, Buffalo Center, Iowa; Mr. Wallie Myers, Keokuk, Iowa; Mr. James Nuckolls, Eldora, Iowa; Mr. Emory J. Oleson, Forest City, Iowa; Mr. Wm. B. Poinsett III, Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Margaret Pollock, Spencer, Iowa; Miss Flora S. Rendleman, Exira, Iowa; Dr. Donald F. Rodawig, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mr. Art Schuneman, Milford, Iowa; Dr. Phil Scott, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Miss Josephine Shaler, Chelsea, Iowa; Mrs. J. G. Shipley, Adair, Iowa; Mr. V. F. Sieverding, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mr. J. R. Skretting, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Roy J. Smith, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Spencer Reporter, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. George R. Stauffacher, Eldora, Iowa; Mr. J. E. Stockdale, Estherville, Iowa; Mr. L. E. Stockdale, Estherville, Iowa; Mrs. C. Dale Stull, Traer, Iowa; Mr. H. E. Taylor, Traer, Iowa; Mr. E. Marshall Thomas, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. LeRoy Vanderwicken, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mrs. C. R. Waterman, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. N. A. Webster, Guttenberg, Iowa; Mr. Frank Wells, Exira, Iowa; Dr. A. J. Wentzien, Tama, Iowa; Mr. Ed. S. White, Harlan, Iowa; Mr. R. E. White, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. W. J. Willett, Tama, Iowa; Mr. H. A. Willoughby, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mr. Otto K. Wohlers, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Inez Wolfe, Algona, Iowa; Mr. R. C. Wood, Traer, Iowa; Mr. Fred D. Adams, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. P. I. Adecock, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. Beatrice M. Alexander, Webster City, Iowa; Mrs. Velma Prewitt Bredahl, Exira, Iowa; Mr. H. D. Brice, Long Island, N. Y.; Mrs. Milton Brown,

Marengo, Iowa; Mrs. Vernon Clark, Winterset, Iowa; Mr. Walter E. Davis, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Fred B. DeWitt, Griswold, Iowa; Mr. J. Danley Fickel, Henderson, Iowa; Mrs. J. D. Frantz, Adel, Iowa; Mr. Walter W. Goeppinger, Boone, Iowa; Mr. Don M. Graham, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. John J. Greer, Spencer, Iowa; Hon. B. B. Hickenlooper, Washington, D. C.; Hon. Charles B. Hoeven, Alton, Iowa; Mr. H. H. Holden, Waterloo, Iowa; Miss Beulah Holm, Maquoketa, Iowa; Mr. Wirt P. Hoxie, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Irving W. Hurlbut, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. H. Keith Kittrell, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. E. J. Klosterboer, Grundy Center, Iowa; Mr. W. A. Lawrenson, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Glenn S. Michell, Rockford, Iowa; Mr. Frank R. Miller, Decorah, Iowa; Mr. Glenn W. Miller, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Max W. Miller, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Tedford W. Miles, Corydon, Iowa; Mr. J. B. Morris, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Warren J. Rees, Anamosa, Iowa; Mr. T. M. Rehder, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. David W. Stewart, Sioux City, Iowa; Dr. Thomas F. Thornton, Jr., Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Oswald Thorson, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. E. F. Trainor, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Daniel W. Turner, Corning, Iowa; Mrs. R. M. Tuttle, Spencer, Iowa; Mr. Roland A. Walter, Lenox, Iowa; Mr. W. M. Wells, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The following persons have been enrolled as life members in the Society: Mrs. W. M. Alderton, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Edward A. Chappell, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Mr. Ralph W. Cram, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Walter R. Draegert, Thornburg, Iowa; Mr. G. W. Dulany, Jr., Clinton, Iowa; Dr. R. A. Fenton, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Mary S. Foster, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Robert T. Foster, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Mr. W. H. T. Foster, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Dr. W. M. Fowler, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Ray E. Fuller, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Robert I. Jenks, New York, N. Y.; Miss Elizabeth M. Kirkpatrick, Lone Tree, Iowa; Mr. Wm. J. Klingbeil, Postville, Iowa; Mr. David Long, Keokuk, Iowa; Mr. Hanford MacNider, Mason City, Iowa; Mr. Hubert L. Moeller, Iowa Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Merrill M. Myers, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Nellie B. Nichols, West Liberty, Iowa; Col. Jesse D. Sickler, San Diego, Calif.; Mr. Merritt C. Speidel, Palo Alto, Calif.; Mr. Seth J. Temple, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Leon J. Zoekler, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. T. E. Diamond, Sheldon, Iowa;

Mrs. C. W. McLaughlin, Washington, Iowa; Mr. A. J. Anderson, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. Wm. S. Beardsley, New Virginia, Iowa; Mrs. Rolland E. Heywood, Peterson, Iowa.

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Tama County Historical Society held its annual meeting August 1. Speakers were Judge B. F. Thomas, Traer, and Harry Taylor, editor of the *Traer Star-Clipper*. A booklet picturing the many relics owned by the Society has been published. Recent additions to the Tama County historical exhibit, which is housed in the courthouse at Toledo, are: an abstract of title to land in Tama County complete from 1852 to the present; a 1902 map, 36 inches square, of Tama County which was originally published by the *Tama County News*; the autobiography of Mrs. E. H. Price, written when she was 90 years old; a complete file of the Central Iowa Chautauqua programs from 1904 to 1932; secretary's book giving the organization of school district No. 2 in Otter Creek township, November 14, 1856, giving a list of heads of families and children; and many relics of the early settlers.

The Wyoming Historical Society of Jones County met on August 24. W. W. Bronson was elected president, to succeed Miss Elsie Bender. Other officers elected were: S. G. Hutton, Mrs. Frank Hendersen, Mrs. C. R. Smith, and Mrs. L. M. Koch, vice-presidents; Miss Mary Briggs, secretary; Mrs. Henry Bramer, treasurer; and Mrs. Arbor Felker, publicity. The Wyoming Society was founded in 1924 and has more than 100 members. The program of the meeting dealt with "Women and Their Contribution to This Community."

The Ringgold County Historical Society elected Mrs. Carson Rhoades president at the annual meeting on August 18. Other officers elected were Charles J. Lesan, vice-president; Arthur Palmer, secretary; and Mrs. Floy Bliss, treasurer.

The Scott County Pioneer Settlers' Descendants, a 92-year-old organization, elected Mrs. Helen Cannon of Davenport president at the annual meeting on August 26. Other officers elected were

George Pinneo, Miss Pearl Townsend, Mrs. David Clapp, Mrs. W. Parmele Peterson, and Frank Gilmour, vice-presidents; Mrs. S. J. Delarue, secretary; Miss May Neil, treasurer; and Mrs. Charles Ludwig, historian.

The Pottawattamie County Historical Society is discussing and considering plans for a new building, since their present museum is inadequate and not fireproofed.

The Pocahontas Historical Society met July 6 to arrange for the dedication of the marker which will commemorate the site of the first log cabin in Pocahontas County. Mrs. Mattie L. Baily is in charge of locating other historic places in the county.

The Wayne County Historical Society recently received a donation of \$1,000 from the estate of the late Jessie Hinkle, former Wayne County teacher. The money is to provide a room in memory of the donor's father in the projected historical building of the society.

IOWA HISTORY NEWS

The papers of noted Iowans in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines have recently been used by three historians. Lloyd Lewis of Chicago, who is writing a biography of Ulysses S. Grant, examined the papers of General Grenville M. Dodge. Dr. Leland Sage of Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls is examining some 500 boxes of the papers of William B. Allison. Dr. Sage is writing a biography of Allison under a Newberry Fellowship granted by the Newberry Library of Chicago. Ralph Sayre of Menlo is preparing a biography of Senator Albert B. Cummins as his doctoral dissertation at Columbia University.

Dr. Jacob A. Swisher of the State Historical Society of Iowa spoke on "The Trail of the Pioneer" at the annual Old Settlers picnic in Madison County at Winterset on September 6. As part of this annual celebration, store windows in Winterset were decorated with historical and antique displays, arranged by the Madison County Antique Association.

The Keokuk room in which Mark Twain served as a printer is to be moved to the Harold E. Smith Museum in New York City, by the Home Insurance Company, owners of the building in which the room is now located. Everything, including the floor of the room, will be transferred to the New York museum.

An 1890 model of a mechanical corn picker was presented to the Iowa State Historical Department of History and Archives at Des Moines by the family of Patrick J. Lawler of Wall Lake, the inventor. Mr. Lawler designed the machine and manufactured two of them in a blacksmith shop at Vail. The model was on display at the State Fair.

The Central College Archives at Pella recently received a valuable collection of newspapers, donated by the widow of C. N. Cole. Mr. Cole, a resident of Pella for 64 years, had collected and preserved newspapers for almost the entire period of his residence. Twelve large packing cases have been turned over to the Central College Archives, and the material is expected to yield valuable information about Central College and about Pella. Although the collection has not yet been unpacked, several scarce newspapers, such as the *Pella Republican* and the *Nieuwsblad*, are known to be in the boxes.

James C. Taylor, Jr., of Ottumwa is planning on publishing a volume of city history titled "One Hundred Years a City." Mr. Taylor will bring out his volume in November.

A plat of McGregor, Iowa, dated October 12, 1850, has been turned over to the McGregor Library museum by M. X. Geske, president of the McGregor Historical Society. Frederick A. Smith, county clerk of Dutchess County, New York, found the plat while going through some family papers, and sent it to R. M. Downing, Clayton County clerk, who turned it over to Mr. Geske. The plat, dated just three years after Alexander McGregor settled at what was to become the town of McGregor, shows eleven buildings and a steamboat at the landing.

A display of heirlooms was held at Clinton in July in connection

with the publication of a *History of Clinton County, Iowa*, compiled by Mrs. Estelle LePrevost Youle.

A Centennial History of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, 1847-1947, by S. V. Williams has been published as a memorial of the 100th anniversary of Mt. Vernon's first official town plat.

Montezuma marked its centennial with a four-day celebration, August 12 through 15. Parades, concerts, store window displays, and special church services helped to high-light the occasion. On August 13 Governor Robert D. Blue addressed the gathering, while on August 14 talks were given by former U. S. Senator Guy M. Gillette and Paul Turnquist, past state commander of the American Legion.

Traer is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, August 18 to 21, with a display of historical relics, an air show, a historical pageant entitled "Roots of Progress," and many other activities. The *Traer Star-Clipper* issued a special 34-page Diamond Jubilee edition containing many pictures and letters from former residents, with reminiscences of the early days.

The *Ottumwa Courier*, founded in 1848, celebrated its centennial with a special edition on August 7, 1948. One section of the issue was devoted to "100 Years of Your Newspaper," an illustrated account of the growth of Ottumwa and of the *Courier*.

The McGregor Historical Museum recently received from Gertrude and Frances Spettel of St. Paul, Minnesota, a collection of newspapers, magazines, and letters concerning the history of the pontoon bridge. The material donated gives proof that Michael Spettel was the original designer of the bridge, although credit has been given to John Lawler. An article in the *McGregor Times*, September 2, 1948, by Lena Myers tells the story of the bridge and discusses the papers now in the McGregor Historical Museum.

Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Hines of Creston have donated to Taylor County their large collection of antiques, including Indian arrow points and other stone implements, a spinning wheel said to have spun the first flax in Taylor County, old guns, a cattle yoke, wooden shoes, and many other tools of the pioneers.

OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Historical Society of Michigan held its annual meeting September 24 and 25 at Detroit. A feature of the meeting was the showing of a fifteen-minute film on transportation on the Great Lakes. Among the papers read at the various sessions were the following: "Down to our State in Ships," by Fr. Edward J. Dowling, S. J., University of Detroit; "Thunder in the Forest" — the story of lumbering in Michigan — by Judge George A. Belding of Dearborn; and "Our Joint Historical Heritage," by Fred Landon, vice-president of the University of Western Ontario and author of the volume on Lake Huron in the Lake Series.

A meeting of the American Association for State and Local History will be held October 27-29 at Raleigh, North Carolina. The program is being arranged by a committee headed by Dr. W. Edwin Hemphill and including Dr. Louis C. Jones, Mrs. Dorothy Estes Knepper, Dr. Marvin W. Schlegel, and Dr. William D. Hoyt, Jr.

The 1948 annual meeting of the American Historical Association will be held in Washington, D. C., December 28, 29, and 30. Headquarters will be at the Mayflower Hotel.

A joint annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Badger State Folklore Society, and the Wisconsin Genealogical Society was held in Milwaukee, August 19-21, 1948. Many papers on Wisconsin history were read and a visit was made to the Wisconsin Centennial Exposition. The State Historical Society's part in the Centennial Exposition consisted of a "History Building," containing a display on the history of the state, an exhibit of the T. B. Walker Collection of Indian Portraits, and a reconstruction of a typical Wisconsin home of 1848.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania sponsored a Conference on American History in January, 1948. The general subject discussed by the Conference was "Do We Need a 'New History' of American Democracy?" The following papers were presented: "A Political Scientist Considers the Question," by Pendleton Herring; "The Historian in Practical Politics," by Joseph D. McGoldrick; "The Problems of Writing Twentieth Century American Political

History," by Henry F. Pringle; "Politics and Economics in History," by Louis M. Hacker; and "The Need for a Cultural Comprehension of Political Behavior," by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. The papers were printed in the April, 1948, issue of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

A fund of \$50,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to be used in research in the history of Pennsylvania. Projects planned are studies of labor in the pre-Civil War era; the nineteenth century iron industry; and art and architecture.

A Rockefeller grant of \$35,000 has been received by the University of Oklahoma. The funds will be used to train research workers in state history over a period of four years.

NOTES AND COMMENT

The seventy-fourth birthday of Herbert Hoover was celebrated at West Branch, Iowa, on August 10, 1948, at the restored two-room birthplace of the former president. Mr. Hoover and members of his family joined with some fifteen thousand Iowans in the birthday party.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society, outlined the plans of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society for the future development of the site. On the grounds surrounding the house trees from each of the 48 states and from each of Iowa's 99 counties will be planted. The blacksmith shop of Mr. Hoover's father will be restored and plans are being made for a museum, in the pattern of a Quaker meeting house, which will contain relics and memorials of Herbert Hoover's life and services.

Eight Curators of the State Historical Society — S. T. Morrison, L. C. Crawford, L. H. Kornder, H. J. Lytle, Carl Mather, Louella B. Thurston, Fannie B. Hammill, and Helen L. Vanderburg — attended the celebration. Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the Society, contributed a poem which was sung to the tune of "America the Beautiful." The Society devoted the September issue of *The Palimpsest* to Herbert Hoover and 7,500 copies were reprinted with a special cover.

CONTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN is Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

MILDRED THRONE is Associate Editor of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

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